



# Florida *Seminole Wars* Heritage Trail



FLORIDA DIVISION OF  
*Historical Resources*

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**N**o matter where you travel in Florida, the legacy of the Seminole Indian Wars is never far away. Stay in one of the state's major cities, and you're probably in a community that sprang up around a military installation from the Seminole Wars. Pass through Osceola County or Dade City, and you are in a place named in honor of one of the wars' many tragic heroes. If you take a boat ride on Lake Eustis or Lake Worth, you'll be floating on one of the numerous bodies of water named after army officers who first explored the peninsula while hunting the elusive Seminole, a people shrewdly using their knowledge of their homeland, a place they had explored long before the white man came. When you drive along a modern highway such as US301 from Tampa to Ocala or Military Trail in Palm Beach and Broward Counties, you're retracing a path originally made by soldiers invading what was then a very inhospitable land.

These wars were significant events, not just for Florida, but for the nation as a whole. For historians, there were three Seminole Wars, 1817-1818, 1835-1842, and 1855-1858. For the Seminole people, it was a continual 40-year struggle to remain in their ancestral homeland. Consider these statistics from just the Second Seminole War: It was the longest of all the Indian wars, lasting almost seven years and forcibly removing over 3,000 Seminole from Florida. It cost roughly \$30 million, at a time when the annual federal budget was only about \$25 million. During one campaign, half the entire U.S. Army was engaged in the war, aided by thousands of volunteers from as far away as Missouri. The army's top four generals all served in Florida, and all left with their reputations diminished. It was the only Indian war where the U.S. Navy played a significant role, and the only Indian war where slavery was a major cause of the fighting. Americans from all over the nation followed and debated these wars, just as 21st century Americans discuss the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Seminole Wars are a tale of heroic struggle and human endurance that lies just beneath the surface of modern-day Florida's exotic playgrounds and bustling cities and continues to exist in the heritage of today's Seminole people. We invite you to turn the pages of this guide and begin a journey of discovery to find the hidden history that lies just under your feet.



The Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc. was founded in 1992 to preserve significant sites involved in the Seminole Wars, to establish educational programs about the wars' importance in Florida's heritage, and to publish pertinent material relating to the wars. Many of the important battlegrounds, forts, Seminole villages, and other significant sites of the wars have been lost. It is vital that the remaining artifacts and history be found and preserved so that we can better understand these important conflicts.

In keeping with our goal of educating the public, the Foundation has produced several historically significant books. Our members give talks to schools and the general public, while others participate in reenactments of Seminole War battles. The Foundation has secured two major historical sites, Camp Izard and Fort Dade, and has provided critical support for the acquisition of the Fort King site in Ocala.

The not-for-profit Seminole Wars Foundation is operated for charitable, educational, and civic purposes as well as preservation of natural habitats. Join us in remembering the past, that we may understand the present.





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## Credits

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## Florida's Seminole Wars

For over four decades the Seminole Indians battled the United States for the right to remain in their Florida homeland, but it would be a mistake to think the conflict was solely about land. It was a fight for freedom, identity, and dignity played out over a wild landscape that shaped the future for both sides. It was also part of a cultural clash that began when the first European set foot on a Florida beach, would spread across the continent, and continues to this day.

Many factors led to tensions between white Americans and Seminole Indians. The trouble started with cattle (*page 21*) and became embroiled with the issue of slavery (*page 3*). Adding to the tension after 1814 was an influx of Creek Indians from Georgia and Alabama, who were either refugees from a civil war between rival Creek factions or people who were displaced by white encroachment. These Indians held a deep-seated animosity toward white Americans that only added to the ill-will that existed between the Seminole and their northern neighbors.

Another factor was the strong desire by the United States to control the peninsula for economic and security reasons. Much of the commerce of Georgia and Alabama traveled to market via rivers that flowed through Spanish Florida. The colony had also been used by the British during the War of 1812 (*page 15*), and Americans felt the southern portions of the nation would always be vulnerable as long as Florida remained in foreign hands.

Tensions only increased after the United States acquired Florida from Spain in 1821. Settlers began to enter the new Territory of Florida to set up homesteads or build plantations (*page 23*) employing numerous slaves. Having hunted and lived in Florida for numerous generations, the Seminole occupied the best agricultural and grazing land. Settlers and speculators pressured government officials to remove the Indians, either to a reservation within the peninsula or to land west of the Mississippi River. The Seminole, a proud people who loved their culture and their homeland, would not be forced from their homes without a fight.

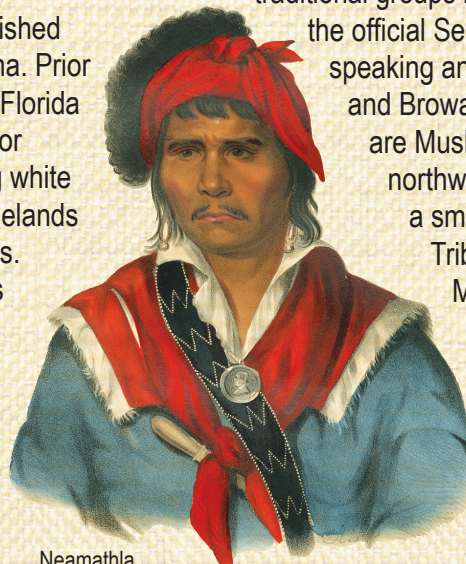
### Who Are the Seminole?

The Seminole people are unique among American Indian tribes in that we have historical evidence of their formation. When the Spaniards arrived, Florida was populated by hundreds of thousands of Native Americans divided into numerous nations. Within 200 years these tribes were nearly extinct, having succumbed to warfare, European diseases, and forced labor.

Into the void came Indians from established tribes in what is now Georgia and Alabama. Prior to the 1700s, various groups migrated to Florida for several reasons. Some were looking for new hunting grounds; others were fleeing white expansion, while still others left their homelands because of conflicts within their own tribes. Settling in different areas at various times and occasionally mixing with indigenous tribes, these groups took on separate identities and were generally divided into two linguistic groups: Mikasuki and Muskogee. One of the oldest and most powerful tribes was the Mikasuki, who lived northeast of Tallahassee. Another

large group lived around the Alachua Prairie. Other, smaller bands were scattered throughout the peninsula.

Europeans who came into contact with the various tribes began to apply the term "Seminole," meaning "runaway" or "outsider," to any Indian living in Florida. For the Seminole, however, the distinction between traditional groups remains. Today, most members of the official Seminole Tribe of Florida are Mikasuki-speaking and live in the Collier, Miami-Dade, and Broward County areas, although there are Muskogee-speaking members who live northwest of Lake Okeechobee. There is also a smaller, politically separate Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida living west of Miami who share common ancestors with members of the Seminole Tribe. For the purposes of this guide, we will generally use the common term "Seminole" to refer to any Florida Indian of the Seminole War period.



Neamathla.

(Image courtesy of the P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida)





## The First Seminole War

Increasing tensions between the settlers of southern Georgia and the Seminole Indians residing in Spanish Florida led to an outbreak of violence in late 1817. The spark that ignited the war was an American military excursion against the Seminole village of Fowltown in southwest Georgia, whose headman, Neamathla, had complained of white encroachment upon his land. The attack on Fowltown was followed a week later by a retaliatory ambush on a military vessel that was ascending the Apalachicola River in Florida's panhandle. The attack, known as the Scott Massacre (*page 16*), resulted in the deaths of approximately 40 soldiers and dependents.

In response, the War Department ordered Major General Andrew Jackson (*page 7*) to invade Florida for the purpose of punishing the Seminole and driving them out of north Florida. In March 1818 Jackson entered Florida with more than 3,000 men, about half of whom were Creek Indians. After destroying the Miccosukee villages in the Tallahassee region, Jackson turned south and captured the small Spanish outpost at St. Marks (*page 19*). He then proceeded further south, fighting a battle at Econfinia Creek (*page 19*) and eventually driving the Seminole beyond the Suwannee River after a battle at Old Town. Jackson then returned to St. Marks and ordered the trial and execution of two British subjects who had been captured during the offensive (*page 19*). He also ordered the hanging of two influential Indian leaders, Hillis Hadjo and Homathlemico, who had been lured out to an American warship flying a British Union Jack.

The war against the Seminole may have been over, but the invasion was not. Claiming the Spaniards were offering sanctuary to the Indians and supplying them with arms, Jackson exceeded his orders by traveling over 100 miles to the west to attack and capture Pensacola, the capital of Spanish West Florida (*page 14*). Leaving the army in possession of the city, Jackson returned to Tennessee. The general's actions caused considerable diplomatic problems with Spain and England and led to lengthy debates in Congress concerning the power of the military and the president. In 1819, after lengthy talks that did not include Seminole representatives, Spain agreed to cede Florida to the United States. When the territory changed hands in 1821, Andrew Jackson was appointed its first governor.



Abraham, Black Seminole interpreter and war leader, ca. 1836-1840.  
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, [floridamemory.com/items/show/31651](http://floridamemory.com/items/show/31651))

### The Black Seminoles

More than any other Indian conflict, the Seminole Wars were strongly influenced by the issue of slavery. For over a century, blacks held in bondage in Georgia and the Carolinas had fled to freedom in Spanish Florida. Many joined the Seminole and some became influential leaders. They often resided in their own villages close to Indian settlements and developed their own culture, with a mix of Indian, African, and American influences. Although numerous blacks lived voluntarily among the Seminole, many were actually purchased slaves. Their plantation experience made them skilled farmers, which yielded profits to their owners, who could sell the slaves' surplus produce. Yet Seminole slaves were treated much like any other tribal member, and for most of them it was as close to freedom as they could hope to get.

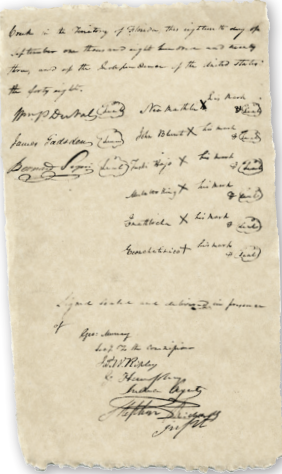
After Florida became a United States Territory in 1821, Southern slave owners pressured the government to recover their "stolen" slaves. Treaties contained clauses demanding the return of runaways, and unscrupulous slave catchers often took blacks that had been properly purchased by the Seminole or free men and women who had been born into the tribe. Because Indians and blacks were effectively barred from the court system, they were rightfully resentful for the loss of friends, family members, or valuable slaves. Blacks, fearing a return to slavery, pressured the Seminole to resist removal to the West and when war broke out, they became some of the tribe's fiercest warriors. Others, fearing capture, fled Florida by canoe, taking refuge in the Bahamas, where slavery had been abolished.





## Territorial Florida

When the United States acquired Florida from Spain there were approximately 30,000 residents in the Territory, nearly half of them African slaves.



Treaty of Moultrie Creek signature page.  
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, [floridamemory.com/items/show/22526](http://floridamemory.com/items/show/22526))

Most of the population lived around the only towns of any notable size, St. Augustine and Pensacola, or in scattered plantations and homesteads in north Florida. With the exception of a small settlement at Key West, very few whites lived in the southern two-thirds of the peninsula. The Seminole population was estimated at around 5,000, including hundreds of blacks. Seminole villages were located primarily in the northern portion of the Territory, near areas of good agricultural and grazing land.

In September 1823 the Seminole relented to white pressure and signed the Treaty of Moultrie Creek (*page 6*). This agreement forced the Seminole to surrender claim to all territory in Florida with the exception of a four-million-acre reservation in the center of the peninsula. Reluctantly, and with little assistance from the government, the Seminole moved onto the reservation. To monitor the Indians, Fort Brooke (*page 36*) was constructed at a location that would eventually become the city of Tampa, and an Indian Agency was established at Fort King (*page 38*), which would later become the city of Ocala.

As the Florida Territory's population increased and expanded into the wilderness, altercations between the newcomers and natives intensified. Many Seminole occupied land that was coveted by settlers, which brought them into conflict with squatters and speculators. Other Indians had moved onto areas of the reservation where not enough food could be grown, which forced them to either steal or beg from their

## Timeline The Seminole Wars

### 1817

- November 20** Army attacks Mikasuki village of Fowltown.
- November 30** Scott Massacre.

### 1818

- March 12** General Andrew Jackson invades Florida.
- March - April** American forces attack and destroy Seminole/Mikasuki villages as far south as the Suwannee River.
- April 6** Jackson captures Spanish post at St. Marks.
- May 7** Army departs St. Marks on way to Pensacola.
- May 23** Jackson captures Spanish capital at Pensacola. End of First Seminole War.

### 1819

- February 22** Adams-Onís Treaty signed, ceding Florida to the U.S.

### 1822

- March 30** Florida becomes a U.S. Territory.

### 1823

- September 18** Treaty of Moultrie Creek.

### 1832

- May 9** Treaty of Payne's Landing.

### 1835

- December 28** Dade Battle, killing of Agent Thompson.
- December 31** Battle at the Withlacoochee River.

### 1836

- February 27 - March 6** General Gaines under siege at Camp Izard.
- March 22 - April 6** General Scott's campaign.
- November 21** Battle of Wahoo Swamp.
- December 4** General Jesup takes command of the war.

### 1837

- March 18** Fort Dade capitulation.
- June 2** The Seminole flee the emigration camp.
- September - December** Seminole leaders, including Osceola, taken prisoner under flags of truce.
- November 29** Coacoochee, black leader John Cavallo, and 18 others escape from Fort Marion.
- December 25** Battle of Okeechobee.

### 1838

- January 15** Powell's Battle of Loxahatchee.
- January 24** Jesup's Battle of Loxahatchee.
- January 31** Osceola dies in prison at Charleston.
- May 16** Command of the war is turned over to General Zachary Taylor.





white neighbors. The one item of wealth the Seminole possessed, their cattle, also caused trouble (*page 21*). In a land with unfenced, open ranges, the rustling of cattle by both sides was a continuous problem.

In 1830, under intense pressure from President Andrew Jackson, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act. The intention of this law was to relocate all Indians living east of the Mississippi to new lands in the west. The five “civilized” tribes of the southeast (Creek, Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole) were to be placed in an official Indian Territory, in what is now the state of Oklahoma. One by one, the native nations were forced to sign treaties that obligated them to emigrate.

The Seminole were pressured into signing the Treaty of Payne’s Landing in 1832 (*page 6*), which stipulated they would leave Florida within three years. The agreement was contingent upon the tribal council receiving the report of a delegation of seven chiefs who would inspect the proposed western reservation. Although the members

of the delegation did place their marks upon a document stating their satisfaction with the new land, upon their return to Florida they denounced the agreement as being fraudulent, claiming they had either been forced or tricked into signing, and insisting the final determination lay not with them, but with the tribal council. With both sides refusing to give in, the stage was set for war.



“Plans of War.”  
(Artist Guy LaBree, Collection of James Billie, Image courtesy of Pat LaBree)

## 1839

- March** Commanding General Alexander Macomb is dispatched to negotiate with the Seminole.
- May 18** Macomb reaches an agreement with the largest Seminole band, allowing them to remain in Southwest Florida.
- July 23** The Seminole attack a trading post on the Caloosahatchee River. The war resumes.

## 1840

- May 5** Taylor relieved by General Armistead.
- May 22** Coacoochee attacks a troupe of actors near St. Augustine.
- August 7** Seminole attack on Indian Key.

## 1841

- May 31** Armistead is replaced by Colonel Worth.
- June 4** Coacoochee captured.

## 1842

- April 29** Halleck Tustennuggee, leader of the last significant hostile band, taken prisoner.
- August 14** Worth declares an end to the war.

## 1845

- March 3** Florida becomes the 27th state in the Union.

## 1849

- July** Renegade band of Seminoles make attacks near Fort Pierce and Paynes Creek.

## 1852

- September** Bowlegs and several other leaders are taken to Washington to meet President Millard Fillmore.

## 1855

- December 20** Army reconnaissance party is attacked by the Seminole. Several soldiers killed and wounded.

## 1856

- March - May** Indian attacks in Sarasota-Bradenton area.
- April 17** Battle in the Big Cypress, largest of the war.
- June 14 - 16** Battle of Tillis Farm, near Fort Meade.
- September** General Harney put in command of war.

## 1857

- January - December** Continuous patrols into the Big Cypress and Everglades puts pressure on Seminoles.
- April** Harney replaced by Colonel Loomis.

## 1858

- March 27** Bowlegs agrees to emigrate, Sam Jones refuses to negotiate and remains hidden in the Everglades.
- May 4** Bowlegs and his band of 165 Seminole leave Florida for the west. The Seminole Wars are over.





## The Second Seminole War

For the next three years, the Seminole quietly resisted all attempts to gather the tribe for deportation to the west. Hostile feelings turned into open warfare on December 28, 1835, when the Seminole attacked and nearly wiped out a detachment of 108 soldiers commanded by Major Francis L. Dade (*page 41*), who they feared had been sent to gather them for deportation. On the same day, famed Seminole leader Osceola (*page 27*) killed Indian Agent Wiley Thompson outside Fort King.

Within weeks, the Seminole scored other stunning victories. On December 31 they repulsed a force of 750 soldiers and volunteers threatening their villages near the Withlacoochee River (*page 34*). By the middle



Pistol, U.S. Model 1836, dated 1841.  
(Image courtesy of the Collection of the Museum of Florida History)

of January they had destroyed virtually every sugar plantation in Florida (*page 23*), ruining the Territory's largest industry and freeing hundreds of slaves.

Hearing of the destruction of Dade's command, Major General Edmund P. Gaines (*page 37*) came from New Orleans to Florida in February of 1836 with over 1,100 men. Gaines was confronted at the Withlacoochee River and forced to erect a defensive enclosure known as Camp Izard. The army then found itself held under siege for over a week before being rescued and forced to withdraw.

Unaware of Gaines's presence in Florida, President Jackson placed Major General Winfield Scott (*page 33*) in charge of the war. Scott fielded 5,000 men in an elaborate plan to surround and capture the Seminole warriors and their families. The campaign ended in embarrassment when it failed to locate, kill, or capture any significant number of Indians. The Seminole, determined to preserve their homeland and way of life, were proving a much more formidable enemy than anyone had anticipated.

Due to heavy rains and rampant disease, offensive operations were suspended for the summer months, as

### Treaties: A Blueprint for War

In the years before the Second Seminole War, several treaties were signed between the Seminole people and the United States. Although these treaties were intended to prevent conflict, the final result was just the opposite.

**Treaty of Moultrie Creek, 1823.** After the United States acquired Florida from Spain in 1821, it was feared conflict would result from the influx of settlers attempting to set up homesteads on land occupied by the Seminole. In an effort to prevent bloodshed, the government proposed moving the Indians away from areas most likely to be settled by whites. The Seminole were given a four-million-acre reservation in central Florida, a generous annuity, and various services for 20 years. Although most Seminole eventually migrated to the reservation, they did not thrive there and friction with their white neighbors increased.

**Treaty of Payne's Landing, 1832.** The Indian Removal Act of 1830 mandated that all Indians living east of the Mississippi River be offered new lands in the west. Participation was supposed to be voluntary but rarely

was. With over ten years still remaining on the Treaty of Moultrie Creek, negotiators coerced Seminole leaders into signing away all rights to their homes in Florida in exchange for land in what is now Oklahoma.

**Treaty of Fort Gibson, 1833.** As part of the Treaty of Payne's Landing, a delegation of Seminole Chiefs was given the opportunity to examine the proposed reservation. At Fort Gibson in Arkansas, the delegation was pressured into signing a paper saying they liked the new land. The government contended this ratified the treaty on the part of the Indians. The Seminole disagreed, saying the chiefs were only advisors and that the final decision was up to the tribal council. Intransigence on both sides led to war.

For the Seminole of Florida, the most important treaty is one that does not exist. No treaty ended the Third Seminole War; the parties simply stopped fighting. The descendants of those who succeeded in the struggle to remain in their homeland can truly claim to be "unconquered."





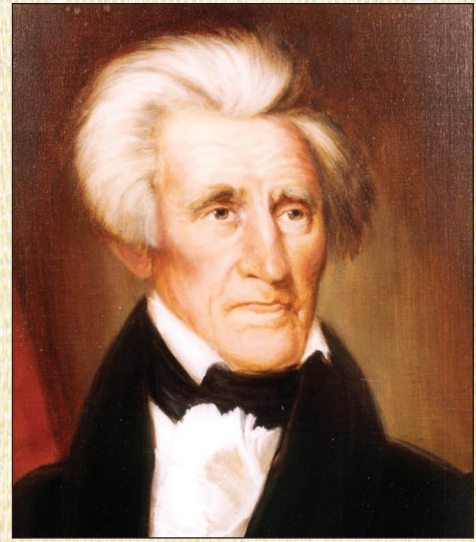
the army abandoned the interior and gathered at “healthy” posts along the coast. As would happen for the next five years, the relatively quiet summers allowed the Seminole to rest, grow their crops, and prepare for winter and the resumption of army campaigns. In the meantime, scattered attacks on travelers and homesteads continued.

In the fall of 1836 an offensive began again under the leadership of Florida Governor Richard K. Call (*page 17*), a protégé of President Jackson and a veteran of previous Indian Wars. Leading a large force of volunteers and regular soldiers, Call managed to force the Seminole from their strongholds near the Withlacoochee River but was stalled at the Battle of Wahoo Swamp, allowing the Indians time to escape into the unmapped Florida wilderness.

The year 1837 proved to be a turning point in the war. Command of the conflict was given to Major General Thomas Jesup (*page 35*), who began a methodical drive to force the Seminole to surrender. Forts were established throughout the Indian-occupied land and mobile columns of soldiers scoured the countryside. Feeling the pressure, many Seminole, including head chief Micanopy (*picture, page 13*), signed the Articles of Capitulation at Fort Dade in March 1837. The Seminole slowly gathered for emigration near Tampa, but in June they fled the detention camps, forcing a resumption of the war.

Jesup also employed the navy (*page 32*). It was the only time the maritime branch of the service was utilized in an Indian war. Because the government believed the Seminole forces were being supplied by Bahamians and Cubans, the navy had been patrolling the coasts since the beginning of the war. Jesup expanded the navy’s role by using coordinated attacks from land and sea. Surplus sailors were used to man forts and Marines came ashore to supplement foot soldiers.

Incensed at what he felt was Seminole treachery for surrendering then leaving the detention camps, Jesup responded in kind, taking many Seminole leaders prisoner while negotiating under a flag of truce. The most important captive was Osceola, who would later die in captivity. Other leaders, including Micanopy, were also taken in this manner. While the practice was successful in removing many Seminole leaders, it also helped solidify the native resistance and created an outpouring of white sympathy for the Seminole cause.



Florida Governor Andrew Jackson, 1821.  
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida,  
[floridamemory.com/items/show/128711](http://floridamemory.com/items/show/128711))

## Andrew Jackson: Hero or Villain?

For most Americans during the time of the Seminole Wars, Andrew Jackson was the nation’s greatest hero since George Washington. They felt he had saved the country at the Battle of New Orleans and brought true democracy to our political system. The “Jacksonian Era” brought astounding change to the nation.

Yet for many Native Americans, Andrew Jackson was the great enemy. He had made his name as an Indian fighter, brutally destroying the Red Stick Creeks at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in 1814, and had invaded Florida in the First Seminole War. More than that, he was the man who pushed the Indian Removal Act through Congress and was responsible for the infamous “Trail of Tears.”

Yet it would be wrong to look at Jackson in such simple terms. His hatred wasn’t reserved only for Native Americans. He strongly disliked most Europeans, especially the British. Those who were politically opposed to him or had crossed him in some other way often acquired a life-long adversary. On the other hand, he could be kind to defeated Indian enemies, even to the point of adopting an orphaned Indian child. When a friendly Indian village was attacked by Georgia militiamen, he swore vengeance on those who had carried out the attack. An impatient man, Jackson acted decisively and did not like to be bothered by annoying details. In war, such an attitude often led to quick success. In situations such as the process of Indian Removal, the results could be disastrous.





## The Second Seminole War

(continued)

### Weapons of War

At the beginning of the Second Seminole War the main firearm of the U.S. soldier was the 1816 Springfield musket. This smoothbore weapon was loaded by pouring gunpowder and a musket ball down the muzzle and using a ramrod to pack it in place. It was fired using the antiquated flintlock system, which produced a spark that would ignite the gunpowder. A gun using this cumbersome process could fire a maximum of three shots per minute, was not very accurate, and had an effective range of about 100 yards. In contrast, the Seminole often used common hunting rifles with spiral grooves in the barrel that increased range and accuracy and were sometimes fired utilizing reliable percussion cap mechanisms.

As a show of good faith, the government had ordered 2,200 Derringer rifles for the Seminole at the Treaty of Payne's Landing in 1832, giving the Indians more advanced weapons than the common soldier. As the war proceeded, however, Seminole guns fell into disrepair and the quality of their firearms lessened.

As new technologies were introduced, the army experimented with novel weapons. Dragoons (cavalry) were issued the Hall's carbine, which had a breech loading mechanism for easier loading on horseback. Colt revolving rifles were also tested in Florida. Many of these experimental guns were dangerous, unreliable, and generally disliked by the soldiers. These new firearms would lead to advances used in the Third Seminole War and the Civil War, but the original Springfield musket remained in use as the main firearm for the U.S. soldier throughout all three Seminole Wars.

— Article by Christopher Kimball

Model 1816 Springfield Musket.  
(Image courtesy of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum)

In November 1837 Jesup launched a massive campaign employing over 9,000 men, approximately half of them civilian volunteers. This was a large army for the time, in light of the fact that at the beginning of the war the entire U.S. Army numbered only 7,000 men. The offensive swept south through the peninsula in several large columns and culminated in the Battle of Okeechobee (page 45) on Christmas Day 1837, and in the Battles of Loxahatchee (page 46) several weeks later. The American forces, led by Colonel Zachary Taylor, would hail the Okeechobee battle as a great victory, but it could also be considered a Seminole victory, as it stopped the army, inflicted severe casualties on the Americans, and provided time for the Seminole women and children to escape to the Everglades.

General Jesup and his senior staff officers felt as if they had at last won the war. They had killed or captured the majority of the Seminole and their senior leaders, and the remnants had been driven deep into the Everglades. By offering freedom in the west to many of the Black Seminole, Jesup had removed most of them from the conflict. Realizing the futility of trying to follow the Indians into the Everglades, Jesup asked the War Department to declare an end to the conflict. Secretary of War Joel Poinsett, not wishing to compromise the Van Buren Administration's Indian Removal policy by allowing any Seminole to remain in Florida, refused to let the war end.

Believing he had done all he could, Jesup asked to be relieved and was replaced by Zachary Taylor, who had been promoted to Brigadier General after the Battle of Okeechobee. The war now entered a new phase, a two-sided war of attrition that would last another four years and accomplish very little, other than the loss of hundreds of lives (Seminole, white, and black) and the expenditure of millions of dollars. Taylor fought a defensive war, concentrating on protecting the settled portions of the Territory and building numerous roads and bridges.

*"After much suffering, they have been driven into the swamps and unwholesome places of their country, and they are now clinging with the last efforts of desperation to their beloved home."*

— Officer of the Fourth Artillery, U.S. Army





By early 1839, the government realized that it would be almost impossible to drive the remaining Seminole from Florida. In a highly unusual move, President Martin Van Buren dispatched the army's highest officer, Major General Alexander Macomb (*page 44*), to negotiate a peace with the Seminole. An agreement was reached with a portion of the Seminole, allowing them to remain in southwest Florida, but the peace was shattered in July 1839 by an Indian attack on a trading post located along the Caloosahatchee River. The government saw no alternative but to continue the war until every last Seminole was removed.


After two years in command and with no end to the war in sight, Zachary Taylor asked to be relieved. He was replaced by Brigadier General Walker K. Armistead, who began a policy of continuing offensive operations during the summer months, penetrating the Everglades by canoes and small boats, hoping to force the Seminole from their safe havens. The policy was not aggressively pursued, however, and the Seminole became more emboldened. Fighting against Armistead were two of the Seminole's most courageous leaders, Abiaka (Sam Jones) (*page 42*), a spiritual leader who remained one step ahead of the army, and Coacoochee (Wildcat) (*page 25*), a young chief who took the war north, into the settled portions of the Territory. Still, as small groups of Indians surrendered or were taken prisoner, the Seminole forces dwindled.

The Seminole may have been under pressure, but they were not yet ready to give up. Soon after Armistead took command, a major battle took place near Micanopy (*page 22*), leaving at least ten soldiers dead. Several days later, a few miles west of St. Augustine, Coacoochee and his men attacked a group of itinerant actors, killing six people (*page 27*). One of the most daring raids took place in the Florida Keys when a group of warriors led by Chakaika attacked Indian Key, the county seat of Dade County, killing seven people, including noted botanist Dr. Henry Perrine (*page 45*). In December 1840, exactly five years after the annihilation of Dade's command, another battle took place near Micanopy, resulting in the deaths of five soldiers and the young newlywed wife of Lieutenant Alexander Montgomery, who led a rescue party that arrived too late to save her and the others.

## Fort Sites, Battlefields, and Historical Markers

The Seminole Wars were a major conflict, yet the ravages of time and the relentless pressures of development have served to obliterate all but a few significant sites. Approximately 200 forts and other military installations were erected during the wars. Some have evolved into thriving cities, but most have simply rotted away, leaving no trace of their ephemeral existence. Battlefields have suffered similar fates. Only the military cemetery and fortress at St. Augustine remain largely as they were at the end of the Seminole Wars.

While the physical memory of the wars has for the most part disappeared, dedicated people interested in Florida's history have helped preserve some of that vanished legacy. Many of the museums featured in this guide devote a portion of their display space to the wars, even though it is not the institution's primary focus. In some communities, citizens have worked tirelessly to save battlefields or fort sites and develop them into parks where visitors can learn about the desperate events that took place on that very ground. At a number of those sites, reenactors gather annually to relive the day when soldiers and warriors fought to the death for their homes and their futures.

Many Seminole War sites would be completely forgotten if not for the occasional Historical Marker placed by various groups, most notably the DAR and the State of Florida. Some are in the middle of bustling urban areas; others are in remote locations where few people pass. **Those placed through the Florida Historical Marker Program are designated with .** For more information on the program, online application, and marker locations, visit [flheritage.com/preservation/markers](http://flheritage.com/preservation/markers). Although there may be little to see or do at these places, we encourage you to stop, read the sign, and contemplate the changes that have taken place. Florida was, and still is, a land worth fighting for.







## *The Second Seminole War*

(continued)

In May 1841, Armistead was replaced by Colonel William Worth, who increased the pressure on the Seminole to surrender. Finally, in the summer of 1842, after seven years of desperate warfare, an agreement was reached with the few hundred remaining Seminole, allowing them to live in southwest Florida. America's longest Indian war was over. Losses included nearly 1,500 men in the army, almost 150 in the navy, and

uncounted hundreds of volunteers, militiamen, and civilians, with the vast majority of the fatalities due to disease, rather than combat. Hundreds of Seminole died during the conflict, either at the hands of soldiers or from malnutrition and disease. Over 3,000 Seminole were forcibly removed from their homes and sent to inhospitable lands in what is now Oklahoma. Many did not survive the trip to their new homes, while others died shortly after their arrival.



U.S. Model 1833 Enlisted Dragoon Saber.  
(Image courtesy of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum)

### **Second Seminole War Memorial, St. Augustine**

At the conclusion of the Second Seminole War, Colonel William Worth ordered that the remains of hundreds of officers who had died in the war and enlisted men who had been killed in action be disinterred from posts throughout the Territory and reburied at the military cemetery adjacent to the St. Francis Barracks in St. Augustine. In a solemn ceremony held on August 15, 1842, the remains were placed under three coquina pyramids with full military honors. A marble obelisk, paid for by donations from soldiers

serving in Florida, was erected in front of the pyramids.

For the Seminole, no such memorial was possible. In some cases, the remains of Indian leaders were taken for scientific study or buried far from their homelands. The quest for the repatriation of remains continues to be a struggle for the Seminole of today.

Today these monuments are seen as a tribute to all who died in the wars, fighting for a disputed homeland and the futures of their peoples.



Military cemetery adjacent to St. Francis Barracks, St. Augustine.





## The Third Seminole War

Florida became a state in 1845, but settlement was hampered in part by the effects of the Second Seminole War. Throughout the war, people had frequently heard from disgruntled soldiers that the land was worthless, often under water, and plagued by disease and unbearable temperatures in the summer. In addition, the presence of the remaining Seminole, whose tenacity and ferocity in the past war had become legendary, made other portions of the nation appear more favorable for settlement. Wanting to remove the perceived Seminole threat, the government began to pressure the remaining Seminole to emigrate to Oklahoma. Chief Billy Bowlegs (Holata Micco) (*page 51*) refused, and war erupted in December 1855.

Once again the government brought in hundreds of soldiers and began to patrol the Everglades in search of Seminole hideouts. The frontier population fled to the cities or nearby fortifications as the Seminole raided isolated homesteads. This time, however, the war was confined to the southern portion of the peninsula. In the early part of the conflict, raids occurred near Brooksville, Tampa, Bradenton, and Sarasota. In mid-June of 1856, a small battle took place near Fort Meade (*page 50*), where an important Seminole leader, Oscan Tustennuggee, was slain. From then on, most of the fighting took place south of Lake Okeechobee.

The fighting continued for another two years, with numerous small skirmishes and few large battles. The Federal Government, needing troops in other parts of the nation, began to withdraw forces in mid-1857, leaving much of the fighting to the Florida Volunteers and Militia (*page 30*). Having learned the lessons of the Second Seminole War, the military dispatched numerous "boat companies" into the Everglades and the waterways that surrounded it. Villages and fields were located and destroyed. Small groups of Indians were captured and sent west. At the same time, delegations of Seminole chiefs were brought from the western Indian Territory in hopes of convincing their eastern brethren to join them. For the most part, the Florida Seminole refused to negotiate.

The war of attrition continued until the spring of 1858, when Bowlegs agreed to emigrate after meeting with chiefs who had been brought from the reservations in the west. At war's end an estimated 300 Seminole remained in Florida, a tenacious people who had refused to give up the land they loved.



Charles Downing.  
(Portrait courtesy of the Collection of the Museum of Florida History)

### Politics As Usual

The Seminole Wars were extremely expensive affairs, and it was up to the United States Congress to supply the funds. During the Second Seminole War Florida was a Territory, represented by a delegate with no voting rights in either the House or Senate. For most of the war that delegate was Charles Downing, a Virginia-born lawyer from St. Augustine who served from 1837 to 1841. Downing fought tirelessly to secure funds to conduct the war, although relatively powerless because of his non-voting status. He was often aided by other Southern Congressmen, who wanted the Seminole removed to eliminate the perceived safe haven for runaway slaves among the Florida Indians.

Downing needed all the help he could get. As the war dragged on, even sympathetic Congressmen began to question the Administration's motives. Henry Wise of Virginia complained of the constant, last-minute calls for funding. "It is in this manner that nine-tenths, if not all of the eight, nine or ten millions of dollars which have been appropriated for this fatal, disastrous, disgraceful Seminole campaign have been obtained." It was politics, as much as any other factor, that caused the Seminole Wars to last so long.





## The Seminole Perspective

The Seminole Wars of the 19th century were a defining point for an entire population, what is today known as the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, and Independent Seminoles. Native Americans possessed an organized military long before the arrival of Europeans in what is now the Southeastern United States. The names of many of the Seminole leaders during the war dually served as their title during times of war. Titles such as Tustennuggee, Hadjo, or Emathla would denote that person's ranking or role during war time.

How were the Seminoles able to fight against the military might of the U.S. government for over 40 years? One of the reasons was the organized military system already built into the culture of the Seminole people. This was done through naming of Seminole men, inherited roles carried out by various clans within the tribe, and specific training given to young boys and men associated with their ranking or role in war. Among Seminoles, one of the most important aspects of going to war is the traditional medicine and cultural etiquette used to maintain the safety of Seminole warriors and families.

The feeling of the Seminoles during wartime would have been different from that of white Americans or the soldiers participating in the campaigns against the Seminole people. A major difference, that many Seminole still express today, is that the Seminole Wars were viewed as a single struggle that lasted beyond the close of what history calls the Third Seminole War. For the Seminoles that remained in Florida for the 40 years of conflict, escape from the fighting would likely only happen through forcible removal from Florida, fleeing into the Caribbean, or to die in battle or an ambush. Simply put, most Seminoles fought hard to stay in their homeland, never knowing when they might be captured or killed over the long years of the Seminole Wars.

Such a long period of warfare affected surviving generations, reaching far beyond the years of hostilities between the Seminoles and the United States. Among modern Seminoles, oral stories of the wars are still told, title-names are still given, and traditional cultural practices related to wartime are still carried on.

— Pedro Osceola Zepeda  
Former Outreach Coordinator,  
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum



Belt plate found at Fort Stansbury.  
(Image courtesy of the Florida Division of  
Historical Resources, BAR collection)

Bandolier bag.  
(Image courtesy of the  
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum)

### A Symbol for Both Sides

When asked to design a graphic that represented both sides in the Seminole Wars, artist Jackson Walker looked for objects that were similar in purpose, yet unique to each culture. A soldier carried his ammunition in a cartridge box on his right side and his bayonet on his left side, both suspended by white belts that crossed over his chest and were secured by a round metal buckle (see painting, page 47). A Seminole warrior often carried his lead shot in a bandolier bag worn in a similar fashion. The cartridge box and bandolier bag both had the same function, yet the decoration associated with each was a reflection of the wearer's own society.





## Seminole Leadership

The Seminole concept of leadership was not well understood by most Americans of the time, nor is it today. Although many an Indian leader was referred to as “Chief,” very few were actually considered chiefs, or “headmen,” by their own people. Most were simply outstanding men who filled leadership positions, much like any military officer or elected politician in white society.

Tribal leadership, although hereditary, was unlike the European system most Americans are familiar with, in that the position of head chief did not automatically pass from father to eldest son. Leadership remained within one clan, which traced its lineage through the female side. A warrior would traditionally marry outside his own clan and any children were considered members of his wife’s clan, so a chief’s son was usually eliminated from contention when a new chief was chosen. Instead, the Tribal Council would choose the most qualified man from among the former chief’s nephews, cousins, or brothers. It was a more democratic system than European monarchies, and the real power often resided more in the council than in the man they elected. It was also a system that allowed for the replacement of a



Micanopy, head chief of the Seminole at the commencement of the Second Seminole War.

*(Portrait courtesy of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum)*

leader who was not suited to the task. A man chosen for skills useful in peacetime might not be the sort of man needed in time of war.

## Telling a Balanced Story

It is often said that history is written by the victors, and in the case of the Seminole Wars this is certainly true. The vast majority of the information we have about the Seminole Wars is derived from U.S. military records and personal correspondence of whites who either lived or served in Florida during the conflicts. For that reason any account of the wars has difficulty in presenting both sides in a balanced manner. Because the Seminole language is not written, we have very little record of what the Seminole were doing and how they were living, other than from a few well-excavated archaeological sites and tribal oral tradition. Indeed, even the eloquent speeches of Seminole leaders that have been passed down to us were originally recorded by white translators.

As in most military histories, the tale of the Seminole Wars can seem like nothing more than a sequence of attacks by either side on the other. Yet during the entire time of the wars, the Seminole were making a living in their homelands, conducting

their annual ceremonies, and continuing their way of life. The Seminole families remaining in Florida remember the wars and the nightmare it inflicted on their people, and this human story should not be lost in the list of commanders, engagements, and fort sites. The historical documents can make the Seminole experience seem passive to the whims of the U.S. Government and masks the real human story of resistance. Part of this imbalance is due to the fact that much of the action was instigated by government officers who came and went under orders from their superiors in Washington. Yet it is important to remember that it was often the Seminole who chose where and when to react to a very real threat to their homes and their way of life.

– Dr. Paul Backhouse

Director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum  
and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer





## Northwest Region

### Calhoun County

#### Blountstown

##### **Blunt Reservation Marker**

SR20, on the grounds of the Old County Courthouse, between Cayson and Rauson Streets

Marks the western boundary of a reservation set aside by the Treaty of Moultrie Creek and given to John Blunt (Blount) one of the six principal chiefs of the Florida Indians.

##### **Cochranetown Marker**

SR20, on the grounds of the Old County Courthouse, between Cayson and Rauson Streets

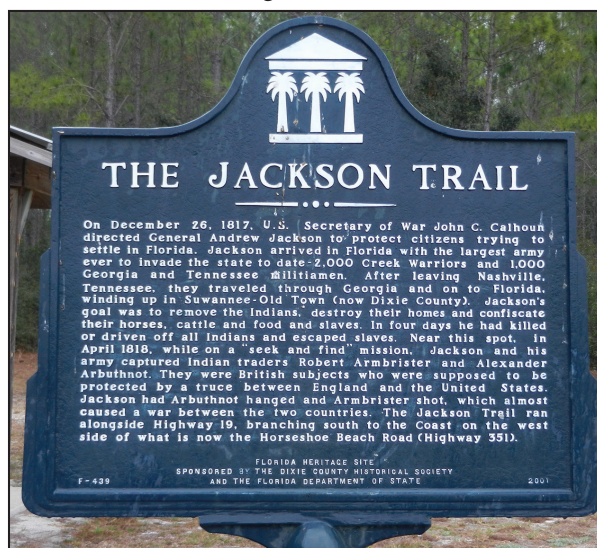
Site of a settlement of refugee Creek Indians founded in 1815 after the residents were forced out of Alabama during the Creek Civil War of 1813-1814. The reverse side of the marker is written in Muskogee.

### Dixie County

#### Horseshoe Beach

##### **Jackson Trail Marker**

Wayside Park, CR351, 16.5 miles south of Cross City Marker along the route taken by Andrew Jackson's army toward Old Town during the First Seminole War.



#### Old Town

##### **Suwannee Old Town Marker**

Intersection of CR55 & SR349

A major Seminole and Black settlement and site of an important battle during the First Seminole War.

 Markers erected under the Florida Historical Marker Program.

### Escambia County

#### Pensacola

After capturing the Spanish fort at St. Marks and forcing the Seminole to flee south of the Suwannee River during the First Seminole War, Andrew Jackson turned his attention to Pensacola, the Spanish capital of West Florida. Leaving St. Marks on April 30, 1818, his army marched through the wilderness, arriving at Pensacola on May 23. Spanish forces abandoned the city and took up position at Fort Barrancas as Jackson approached. After a short siege, the Spanish surrendered Barrancas on May 28, 1818.

##### **Fort Barrancas**

Pensacola Naval Air Station, Gulf Islands National Seashore, just east of the Naval Aviation Museum.

850.934.2600

[nps.gov/guis](https://www.nps.gov/guis)

One of four forts eventually built to protect the entrance to Pensacola Bay and the U.S. Navy Yard.



Fort Barrancas.

##### **Historic Pensacola Village**

205 E. Zaragoza Street

850.595.5993

[historicpensacola.org](http://historicpensacola.org)

Tour several buildings from the Seminole War period and the T. T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum.



Quina House Museum, built ca. 1810, Historic Pensacola Village.





## Northwest Region



Warriors from Bondage.  
(Artist Jackson Walker, image courtesy of the artist)

### The Attack on the “Negro Fort”

For much of the American South, the Apalachicola River was both a promise and a threat. For farmers and

plantation owners in western Georgia, the river was the most direct route for their produce to reach market. Unfortunately, it ran through an area owned by Spain and populated by unfriendly Seminole Indians.

During the War of 1812, the Apalachicola threatened to become an avenue for a possible invasion of the Southern states. The British military came to the Florida panhandle seeking alliances with Indians and runaway slaves. To help control and protect the river, they built a large fort at Prospect Bluff, about 25 miles north of the river’s mouth. At war’s end the British stocked it with arms and ammunition and turned it over to the Indians and fugitive slaves, who saw it as a refuge against slave catchers.


Southern slave holders saw it differently. Calling it the “Negro Fort,” they viewed it as a beacon for runaways and a starting point for a slave rebellion. Spain was too weak to do anything about the situation, so President Madison turned to Major General Andrew Jackson, who ordered a combined land and naval assault on the fort. On July 27, 1816, two navy gunboats joined hundreds of soldiers and Indian allies in the attack. A red-hot cannonball fired from one of the gunboats struck the fort’s powder magazine, causing a massive explosion that leveled the structure and instantly killed hundreds of the fort’s occupants. Although the expedition had been more about capturing slaves than fighting Indians, it paved the way for the violence that culminated in the First Seminole War.

## Franklin County

### Fort Gadsden (Negro Fort)

From US98 east of Apalachicola, drive 20 miles north on SR65 to Brickyard Road, then 3 miles on unpaved road to fort site; Apalachicola National Forest.  
850.643.2282

[fs.usda.gov/main/apalachicola](https://fs.usda.gov/main/apalachicola)

Remains of the earthen walls of the fort are still visible, and an interpretative kiosk gives details of its history (*see article, this page*). During the First Seminole War, Fort Gadsden was erected on the site of the destroyed “Negro Fort.” Also at the site is a marker for Milly Francis , a Creek Indian girl who saved a captured U.S. soldier from execution in Pocahontas-like fashion.



Interpretative kiosk at Fort Gadsden.



Infantry (left) and artillery (right) buttons found at Fort Gadsden.  
(Image courtesy of the Florida Division of Historical Resources)





## Northwest Region

### Gadsden County

#### Chattahoochee

##### Apalachicola Arsenal

At the eastern end of the Florida State Hospital, North Main Street & Pecan Lane, 0.3 miles west of Jinks Crossing Road.  
850.663.7001

The powder magazine was originally part of a federal arsenal built in 1834 and used to store weapons and ammunition during the Second Seminole War and the Civil War. The building has recently been renovated as a conference center and future museum. Also nearby are the restored officers' quarters (now the hospital administration building) and several markers. Limited entrance, by appointment only.



Powder Magazine, Apalachicola Arsenal.

##### Scott Massacre Site

At the end of River Landing Road, 0.3 miles east of Apalachicola River bridge, off US90.

The site of a surprise attack on an army transport that left about 40 soldiers, women, and children dead, the location is now a county park and public boat ramp (*see article, this page*). A marker and interpretive signage is planned. The site is also the location of a British fort used during the War of 1812.

### Gulf County

#### Wewahitchka

##### Fort Place Marker

Four miles south of town on SR71.

Site of a fort erected in the early 1830s for protection against the Indians.

*"We suffered very much during this march from the scarcity of water, every part of the ground being parched by the excessively hot sun. Our only mode of procuring it on many occasions was to dig holes in the ground, it being generally found at a depth of one or two feet from the surface, but with the colour and consistence of ink. We had to drink this or go without."*

– Dr. Jacob R. Motte



Indians attacking Lieutenant Scott's party, by William Croome.

##### The Scott Massacre

As tensions grew along the southern frontier in 1817, the army erected Fort Scott on the Flint River, several miles above the Florida line. On November 21 & 22 General Edmund Gaines ordered an attack on the nearby Indian village of Fowltown, forcing the Indians to flee their village and take refuge in Florida.

A week later, on November 30, a small army supply vessel under the command of Lieutenant Richard Scott was ascending the Apalachicola, headed for Fort Scott. Aboard were about 40 soldiers, of which half were invalids in need of medical care, seven soldiers' wives, and several children. Progress was slow, with the men using oars or throwing anchors ahead of the vessel to pull against the strong current.

A mile below the Georgia line there was a bend in the river, and the current forced the boat toward the riverbank. Hiding in the foliage were hundreds of Seminole, Mikasuki, and Creek warriors, waiting for the opportunity to take revenge for the attack on Fowltown. As the boat drew near they rose from their concealment and opened fire, instantly killing most of the able-bodied men on board. When the vessel drifted ashore the Indians rushed aboard to face those who were still on board. Only six soldiers managed to swim to safety on the opposite bank. All of the women and children were slain, with the exception of one woman, Elizabeth Stuart, who was taken prisoner, but rescued several months later. The Florida Indians and the Americans had been approaching war. Now there was no turning back.





## Northwest Region

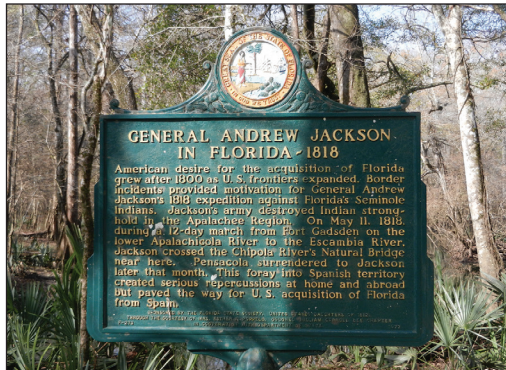
### Jackson County

#### Marianna

#### Andrew Jackson in Florida Marker

Florida Caverns State Park, 3345 Caverns Road, near boat launch.

Marker along the route taken by Andrew Jackson's army toward Pensacola during the First Seminole War.



### Bellamy Bridge Heritage Trail

Jacob Road (CR162), just west of Chipola River.

Site of the Battle of Upper Chipola during the First Seminole War, in which Creek Indians serving for the U.S. attacked rival Creeks living in Florida. An interpretive panel at the trailhead discusses the battle.

### Leon County

#### Tallahassee

#### The Grove (Call/Collins House)

100 E. 1st Avenue

850.245.6669

[thegrovefl.com](http://thegrovefl.com)

The home of Richard Keith Call (*see article, this page*), Territorial Governor during most of the Second Seminole War and commander of the November 1836 campaign that culminated in the Battle of Wahoo Swamp.

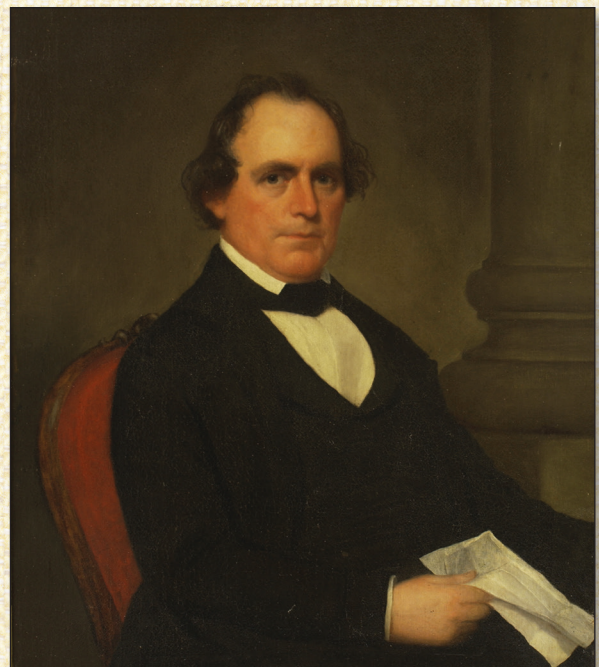
### Richard Keith Call and the Battle of Wahoo Swamp

The most prominent civilian figure in Florida during the Second Seminole War was Richard Keith Call. He began the war as a brigadier general in the Territorial Militia and led the Florida Volunteers at the Battle of the Withlacoochee. A close friend of Andrew Jackson from his service in the First Seminole War, Call was appointed Territorial Governor in March 1836. Three months later President Jackson put Call in charge of the war.

Call conducted a large-scale campaign to drive the Seminole from the Cove of the Withlacoochee in the autumn of 1836. A combined force of over 2,000 volunteers and regulars pursued and engaged the Indians several times and destroyed a number of their villages. The final battle took place in an area known as the Wahoo Swamp, on November 21, where American troops and Seminole warriors faced off across a narrow stream that passed through the swamp. Facing fierce opposition and unsure of the water's depth, Call and his officers decided not to cross the stream and pursue the retreating Indians. Citing the seemingly impassable terrain and lack of supplies, Call did not continue the pursuit the following day.

Although Call had forced the Indians from their homes in the Cove, his decision not to pursue and capture the fleeing natives caused a falling-out between him and Jackson. He was replaced as governor in December 1839, but was reappointed to the position in 1841 when William Henry Harrison became president.

— Article by Harry Pickering



Governor Richard Keith Call.

(Image courtesy of the Collection of the Museum of Florida History)





## Northwest Region

### Historic Capitol Museum and the Parkhill Monument

Old Capitol Building, 400 S. Monroe Street  
850.487.1902  
[flhistoriccaptol.gov](http://flhistoriccaptol.gov)

Contains exhibits that include material on the Seminole Wars. A monument to Captain John Parkhill of the Leon County Volunteers, the last officer to be slain in the Seminole Wars, is in front of the building.



Historic Capitol Museum and Captain John Parkhill Monument.

### Miccosukee Village Marker

SR59, just south of SR142/151, 20 miles northeast of Tallahassee.

Site of a major Seminole village attacked by General Andrew Jackson's army during the First Seminole War. Hundreds of homes were burnt and crops and livestock destroyed.

### Museum of Florida History

R. A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street  
850.245.6400  
[museumoffloridahistory.com](http://museumoffloridahistory.com)

View exhibits on the Seminole Wars and Florida's Native American history at the State's official cultural history museum. For those who wish to delve deeper, the State Library and Archives is housed in the same building, featuring collections of historic photos, treaties, maps, and other documents.



Museum of Florida History.  
(Image courtesy of the Museum of Florida History)

### Santa Rosa County

#### Santa Rosa Island

### Fort Pickens

1400 Fort Pickens Road, Pensacola Beach  
850.934.2635  
[nps.gov/guis](http://nps.gov/guis)

Completed just prior to the outbreak of the Second Seminole War, Fort Pickens is an excellent example of coastal fortifications in the Seminole War period and was a place where Seminole were sometimes detained prior to being sent west to Oklahoma.



Fort Pickens.

### Taylor County

#### Cross City

### Falls of the Steinhatchee

Entrance to Falls Road is on SR51, 1.8 miles west of US19, 17 miles north of town. Suwannee River Water Management District.

386.362.1001  
[srwmd.state.fl.us](http://srwmd.state.fl.us)

The rock ledge provides a natural ford for the Steinhatchee River that had been used by Native Americans for thousands of years. General Andrew Jackson's army crossed here in 1818, as did many forces in the Second Seminole War.



Falls of the Steinhatchee.





## Northwest Region

### Perry

#### Econfina River State Park

CR14, 6 miles south of US98, 20 miles west of town.  
850.922.6007

[floridastateparks.org/park/Econfina-River](http://floridastateparks.org/park/Econfina-River)

On April 12, 1818, advance forces of General Andrew Jackson's army fought a battle near here with Red Stick Creek Indians led by Peter McQueen. About 40 warriors were killed and 100 people taken prisoner. The exact location of the battle is unknown, but the river can be viewed at the park or from a small boat ramp at the US98 bridge.

### Wakulla County

#### St. Marks

#### San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park

148 Old Fort Road  
850.925.6216

[floridastateparks.org/park/San-Marcos](http://floridastateparks.org/park/San-Marcos)

During the First Seminole War, General Andrew Jackson captured the Spanish fort at St. Marks, a clear violation of his orders not to molest the Spaniards (see *article, this page*). The fort ruins are now a State Park, and a small museum highlights the history of the fort. Also at the site is a stone monument for Milly Francis.



Fort ruins, San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park.  
(Image courtesy of Florida State Parks)

*"From moon to moon we thought the soldiers would retire, but they continued their destruction as fast as we could plant. There was no alternative left but to improve the first opportunity to surrender."*

— Neathlock Emathla



The trial of British subject Robert Ambrister at St. Marks, 1818.

(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, [floridamemory.com/items/show/30745](http://floridamemory.com/items/show/30745))

#### Foreign Intrigue at St. Marks

General Andrew Jackson's invasion of Spanish Florida in 1818 was authorized by President Monroe, but his orders were to punish the Indians and to not molest the Spaniards. Yet by the time Jackson left Florida he had managed to antagonize both the Spanish and the British.

After destroying the Seminole villages around Lake Miccosukee, Jackson turned his army south toward the Spanish post at St. Marks. Jackson seized the fort, claiming the Spaniards were supplying the Indians with weapons. Found at the fort was Alexander Arbuthnot, a 70-year-old Bahamian trader who had written several letters in support of the Seminole.

Jackson's army then advanced to the Suwannee River, where a Bahamian soldier of fortune and former Royal Marine officer, Robert Ambrister, was taken prisoner when he mistakenly entered the American camp. When the army returned to St. Marks, Ambrister and Arbuthnot were put on trial for aiding the enemy and inciting warfare against Americans. Both men were found guilty, and Arbuthnot was hanged from the yardarm of his own ship. Ambrister received mercy from the court, but Jackson overruled them and ordered the prisoner to face a firing squad.

Both Spain and England were enraged. The capture of a Spanish post could be considered an act of war, and the execution of British subjects by a military tribunal on neutral territory raised serious legal questions. Intense diplomacy took place and Congressional investigations were carried out. In the end, Spain was too weak and England too interested in commerce with America to retaliate. As for Congress and the American people, Jackson had done what most of them wanted and was hailed as a hero.



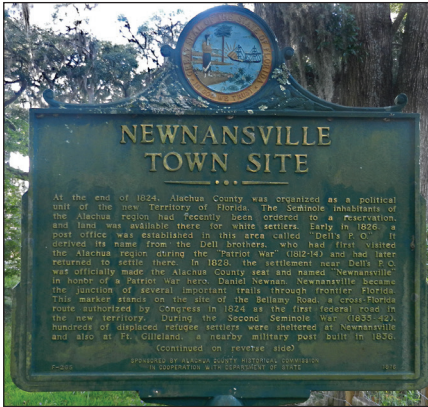


## Northeast Region

### Alachua County

#### Alachua

##### Newnansville Marker



1.6 miles north of Alachua on CR235, across from the cemetery.

Site of a town named in honor of Colonel Daniel Newnan of the Georgia Volunteers, who fought in the Patriot War (see article, page 26).

The original

county seat of Alachua County, it was a place where many refugees from the Second Seminole War sought shelter.

#### San Felasco Hammock Preserve

11101 Millhopper Road; 13201 Progress Boulevard  
386.462.7905

[floridastateparks.org/park/San-Felasco-Hammock](http://floridastateparks.org/park/San-Felasco-Hammock)

On September 18, 1836, a large party of Seminole attacked about 100 Florida Militia troops at this site. After about an hour of heavy fighting with losses on both sides, the Indians withdrew.

The preserve has trails and informational kiosks. Foot trails are at the south entrance on Millhopper Road, while horse and bike trails are at the north entrance on Progress Boulevard.



San Felasco Hammock Preserve.

### Gainesville

#### Florida Museum of Natural History

3215 Hull Road,  
on the University  
of Florida  
campus  
352.846.2000  
[flmnh.ufl.edu](http://flmnh.ufl.edu)

The South Florida Indian Peoples exhibit offers insight into Seminole culture and history, and also allows the visitor to better understand the environment the wars were fought in.



Seminole cultural exhibit, Florida Museum of Natural History/University of Florida.

(Image courtesy of the Florida Museum of Natural History/University of Florida)

##### Fort Clarke Marker

West of I-75 at SR26 and NW 91st Street. In front of the Greater Fort Clarke Missionary Baptist Church.

Site of a minor post from the Second Seminole War.

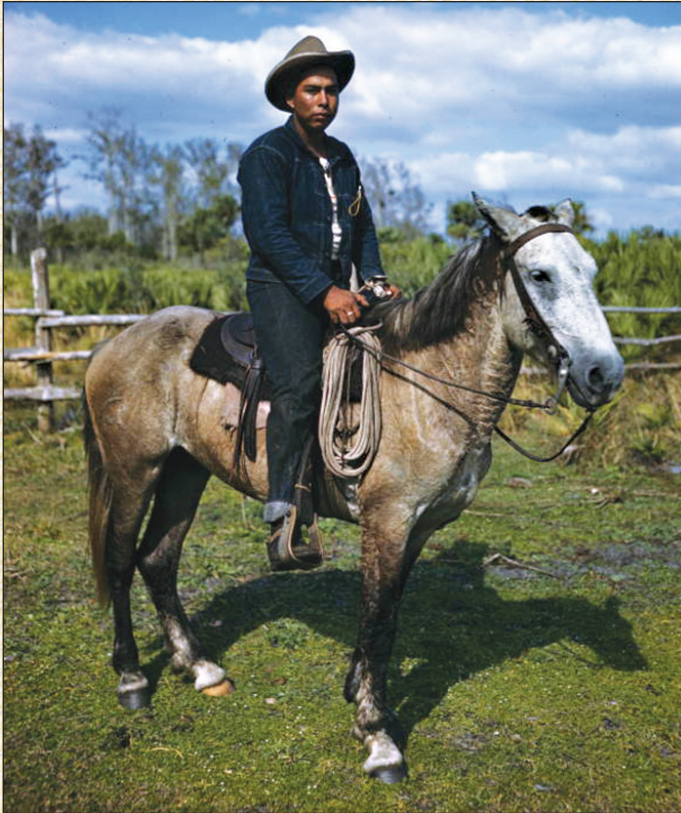
*"The land we occupy, we expect will be considered our own property to remain as such for ever, unless we may think proper to part with it."*

– Tukose Emathla (John Hicks)





## Northeast Region



Seminole cowhand Big Charlie Osceola at the Brighton Indian Reservation, 1949.  
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, [floridamemory.com/items/show/245561](http://floridamemory.com/items/show/245561))

### Seminole Cattle Ranching: A Source of Pride and Trouble

The Native Americans who inhabited Florida after Hernando de Soto and other explorers came through in the sixteenth century became very adept at using Spanish

cattle as a means of support and prestige. As early as the 1670s the Spanish ranchero at La Chua used “Seminole” as “vaqueros” to herd cattle. By the time naturalist William Bartram passed through Central Florida (Gainesville area) in 1774, the Seminole leader Cowkeeper had amassed a sizable herd of over 10,000 head.

The prosperity of the Seminole cattle industry aroused envy in the settlers, who wanted the cattle and the land upon which they grazed. The frequent skirmishes between white settlers and Seminole often revolved around cattle rustling between the two groups and was one of the major contributing factors to the outbreak of the Second Seminole War in 1835. One of the stipulations in the Treaty of Payne’s Landing in 1832 was the requirement that cattle be turned over to the Indian Agent for resale to whites. As the 1835 deadline approached, the Seminole became more reluctant to surrender their cattle and other livestock to the Indian Agents. As hunting opportunities declined and game disappeared because of settlement, cattle became the major source of protein for the Indians. It was an important resource they would not give up without a fight.

After the wars, Florida’s Seminole retained few cattle, but were able to maintain their husbandry skills by working for white cattle ranchers. Thanks to government programs in the 1930s, Seminole-owned ranches were re-established, and today the Seminole Tribe is one of the nation’s top ten cattle producers.

– Article by Dr. Joe Knetsch

### Micanopy

#### Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park

100 Savannah Boulevard

352.466.3397

[floridastateparks.org/park/Paynes-Prairie](http://floridastateparks.org/park/Paynes-Prairie)

Originally known as the Alachua Prairie, this prime grazing land was home to many Seminole and was coveted by white ranchers (*see article, above*). Because of its importance to both sides, the area around the prairie was scene to some of the bloodiest fighting in the Second Seminole War. The Visitor Center has a good exhibit on the Seminole Wars.

*“I have been hunted like a wolf, and now I am to be sent away like a dog.”*

– Halleck Tustennuggee



Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park Visitor Center .





## Northeast Region

### Rochelle (Newnan's Battle) Marker

6.8 miles north of Micanopy at intersection of CR234 and CR2082

Site of a major battle during the Patriot War (see article, page 26) in which Georgia Volunteers led by Colonel Daniel Newnan attempted to drive the Seminole from the Alachua Prairie. King Payne, leader of the Seminole, received mortal wounds in the battle.



### Town of Micanopy and Historical Society Museum

607 NE Choloikka Boulevard  
352.466.3200

[micanopyhistoricalsociety.com](http://micanopyhistoricalsociety.com)

Named after the primary Seminole chief during the Second Seminole War (see page 13) and site of Forts Micanopy and Defiance, the town preserves much of its historical flavor. The Historical Society Museum has an excellent exhibit on the wars and the Seminole who lived in the area. A small park east of town on Tuscawilla Road across from the Tuscawilla Preserve is the sight of a major battle fought on June 9, 1836, between about 250 warriors led by Osceola and the soldiers of Fort Defiance. The Seminole withdrew "after about an hour and twenty minutes' hard fighting under a broiling sun."



Micanopy Historical Society Museum.

### Baker County

#### Macclenny

### Burned Blockhouse

Heritage Park Village, 102 S. Lowder Street  
904.259.7275

[heritagepark.cityofmacclenny.com](http://heritagepark.cityofmacclenny.com)

The preserved blockhouse, built during the Seminole War period, is the last remaining example of the type of architecture used by settlers in areas subject to Indian raids.



### Clay County

#### Middleburg

### Fort Heilman Marker

Blanding Boulevard near Scenic Drive

Site of a major supply depot during the Second Seminole War. The site was chosen because nearby Black Creek was deep enough to accommodate ships bringing war supplies from the northern states.

### Columbia County

#### Lake City

### Chief Alligator (Halpatter Tustennuggee) Marker

Downtown Courtyard, SR47 near US90

The town of Lake City was originally known as "Alligator," named after one of the most respected Indian leaders of the Second Seminole War. A man of both peace and war, he took part in the negotiations of February 1837, and was one of the principal leaders at the Battles of Okeechobee and the Withlacoochee. He surrendered in April 1838, but returned from the West late in the war to aid in negotiations to end the conflict.

### Duval County

#### Jacksonville

### Seminole War Blockhouse Marker

Corner of Ocean (US1) & Monroe

Site of a Second Seminole War era blockhouse and fort used for protection against Indian attacks.





## Northeast Region

### Flagler County

#### Flagler Beach

##### Bulow Plantation State Park

3501 Old Kings Road  
386.517.2084

[floridastateparks.org/park/Bulow-Plantation](http://floridastateparks.org/park/Bulow-Plantation)

These burned-out ruins are the remains of one of Florida's largest sugar plantations, destroyed by the Seminole early in the Second Seminole War (*see article, this page*).




Bulow Plantation Ruins.

#### Palm Coast

##### Mala Compra Plantation

Bing's Landing Boat Ramp and Park, SRA1A, 2.8 miles north of Palm Coast Bridge

This was the home of Joseph M. Hernandez, first delegate to Congress from the Florida Territory and a brigadier general in the Florida Militia during the Second Seminole War. Under orders from General Jesup, Hernandez took famed Seminole leader Osceola prisoner in October 1837. The plantation house and other buildings were destroyed by Seminole raiders early in the war. Remnants of Hernandez' home can be seen at a preserved archaeological dig within the park. A marker  outside the park tells the history. Nearby Washington Oaks Gardens State Park was also a Hernandez property.



Mala Compra Plantation Archaeological Site.



Dummett Plantation Ruins (*see page 33*).

### Sugar: An Industry Destroyed By War

In 1835 the Florida economy was fueled by sugar. Before tourism took off or citrus began to flourish, sugar was the Territory's largest industry. Cultivation and processing required the labor of thousands of slaves, who made up nearly half of Florida's population. Most plantations were along the east coast in the area south of St. Augustine and owned by some of the area's leading citizens. Yet within a few weeks of the Second Seminole War's commencement, virtually every one of those plantations had been destroyed or abandoned and hundreds of slaves set free. The Seminole, forced to war, were not only attacking troops and isolated homesteads, they were waging economic warfare.

General Joseph Hernandez, commanding the Florida Militia in East Florida, ordered Major Benjamin A. Putnam southward from St. Augustine to meet the threat and stop the destruction of valuable property. While on the march, Putnam received word of numerous plantations being burned and looted, including the Rees plantation at Spring Garden (*page 32*), one of the most prosperous. Putnam's command proceeded from Hernandez's Mala Compra Plantation toward Bulow's Plantation. Word reached him of a force of Seminole near Dunlawton, where some of the out-buildings had been torched. A skirmish with two scouts led to a larger engagement which ended with the retreat of Putnam's force. The entire east coast was now without protection and open to depredation. In very short order, the most vulnerable and prosperous plantations were destroyed and burned. The sugar industry had taken decades to build and would not thrive again until the 20th century.

— Article by John Missall and Dr. Joe Knetsch





## Northeast Region

### Gilchrist County

#### Fanning Springs

##### Fort Fanning Historical Park

9930 Kentucky Avenue, just east of the Suwannee River bridge. Across the street is Fanning Springs State Park. Site of a fort built in 1838 to guard the Suwannee River crossing. On the opposite side of the river were Seminole and Black villages destroyed during the First Seminole War.



Fort Fanning Historical Park.

### Madison County

#### Madison

##### Blockhouse Marker

Four Freedoms Park, US90 and Range Street  
Site of a Second Seminole War era blockhouse used to protect the town's inhabitants.



Tukose Emathla (John Hicks).

##### John Hicks, Hickstown Marker

5 miles west of town on US90  
Site of the village of Chief Tukose Emathla (John Hicks) the primary Seminole leader in the period between the First and Second Seminole Wars.

*"Here our navel strings were first cut and the blood from them sunk into the earth, and made the country dear to us."*

– Tukose Emathla (John Hicks)

### Putnam County

#### Palatka

##### Fort Shannon Marker

US17/92 and 2nd Street, in front of School Board office.  
Site of a major Second Seminole War fort used to protect the surrounding settlement and warehouses.

##### Palatka Marker

US17/92 and 11th Street, in front of Police Station.  
The town was located at a major port on the St. Johns River where ocean-going vessels off-loaded supplies and troops for the interior.

##### Putnam County Historical Society Museum

100 Madison Street  
386.325.9825  
The building is an officer's quarters from Fort Shannon, a major post during the Second Seminole War.

### St. Johns County

#### St. Augustine

Already a military town due to the presence of Fort Marion and St. Francis Barracks, St. Augustine played an important part during the Seminole Wars. The city was also a resort where soldiers came for rest and relaxation.

##### Castillo de San Marcos National Monument

1 S. Castillo Drive  
904.829.6506  
[nps.gov](http://nps.gov)  
Known as Fort Marion during the Seminole Wars, the fort was used as a detention center for Seminole prisoners awaiting transport to the West (*see article, next page*).



Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, St. Augustine.  
(Image courtesy of the National Park Service)





## Northeast Region

### St. Augustine

#### Fort Mosé Historic State Park

15 Fort Mosé Trail

904.823.2232

[floridastateparks.org/park/Fort-Mose](http://floridastateparks.org/park/Fort-Mose)

A fortification built during the Spanish period as part of a settlement of runaway slaves from the English colonies, the abandoned site of Fort Mosé was occupied by American forces in 1812 during the "Patriot War" (see article, page 26).

### Fort Peyton Marker

(Difficult to find). Take Wildwood Drive 2 miles from SR207, turn right on Cheyenne Drive (1 mile south of Treaty Park), go 0.3 mile to second Winterhawk Drive. Turn right, go 0.3 mile to dirt alleyway just past second Arrowhead Drive. Park at end of alleyway and walk approximately 750 feet to marker. Path is not well-maintained.

A fort guarding the southern approaches to St. Augustine, it was near the site where Osceola was captured.

### Coacoochee and the Escape from St. Augustine

One of the most famous leaders from the Second Seminole War was Coacoochee (co-ah'-co-chee), often referred to as Wildcat. When his father, King Phillip, was captured, Coacoochee attempted to parley with General Jesup but was taken prisoner and confined at Ft. Marion in St. Augustine. He was soon joined by Osceola, also taken into custody while carrying a flag of truce.

Coacoochee, along with the black leader John Cavallo and others, began to plan an escape. While there are conflicting reports as to precisely what occurred, Coacoochee's own account is the most widely related. He and his companions carefully chipped away at the cement holding in place one of the bars across a loophole in the wall of the storeroom that served as their prison. On the night of November 29, 1837, using a rope made of blankets, 20 Seminole (including two women) worked their bodies through the narrow eight-inch opening and lowered themselves to the ground. Unseen by sentries, they slipped into the woods and made their escape. Phillip and Osceola, too ill and frail to accompany them, remained behind.

Heading south, Coacoochee and his followers soon met up with their kinsmen. Less than a month later he would be one of the primary leaders at the Battle of Okeechobee. After the capture and death of Osceola, Coacoochee became a principal war leader and one of the men most sought by the army. He surrendered in 1841 and assisted in convincing many of his followers to turn themselves in. He and Cavallo later led their followers to Mexico, where Coacoochee died of smallpox in 1857.



Drawing of Seminole chief, Coacoochee (Wild Cat), ca.1836-1842.

(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, [floridamemory.com/items/show/25534](http://floridamemory.com/items/show/25534))

*"The whites are too strong for us; they make powder, we cannot. I could live like a wolf, but our women and children suffered when driven from swamp to swamp."*

— Coacoochee (Wild Cat)





## Northeast Region

### The Patriot War of 1812

The Seminole of Florida fought U.S. troops for the first time while Florida was still under Spanish rule. Hostilities broke out in 1812 when a former Georgia governor, George Mathews, organized a group called the Patriots and sent them into Florida to overthrow the Spanish colonial government. In March 1812 they captured the town of Fernandina and called for U.S. military support.

Although the administration of President James Madison disavowed this action, U.S. forces had already occupied Fernandina and moved south towards St. Augustine. Then, in June 1812, the United States declared war on Britain, starting the War of 1812. American officials were reluctant to withdraw forces from Florida, afraid that both Spain and Britain would retaliate with a strike against Georgia. American forces established bases at Goodby's Lake, Julington Creek, Fort Picolata, and Fort Mosé, trying to isolate the Spanish garrison in St. Augustine.

Seeing the American occupation as a threat to their own territory, the Seminole Indians of Alachua allied with the Spanish forces. Both the Seminole and the free Spanish black militia of St. Augustine proved crucial to the Spanish defense of Florida. During the summer of 1812 Seminole warriors, moving quickly on horseback, struck behind the American lines, ambushing couriers and harassing American encampments. Then, in September

1812, the black militia severed American supply lines to the St. Johns River and forced U.S. troops to retreat from Fort Mosé.

The war broadened into Seminole territory when Colonel Daniel Newnan and the Georgia volunteers set out to destroy Payne's Town, the principal Seminole settlement in Alachua. A war party under the Indian headmen Payne and Bowlegs intercepted them and forced the Georgians to retreat, but not before Payne received a mortal wound

(see marker, page 22). Subsequently, in 1813, a larger expedition of U.S. regulars attacked and burned Payne's Town. It was the beginning of over 40 years of hostility between the Seminole people and the U.S. military.

— Article by Dr. James Cusick



U.S. Army infantry officer's coatee.  
(Image courtesy of the Collection of the  
Museum of Florida History)

### St. Augustine

#### St. Francis Barracks & Cemetery

82 Marine Street

Originally a Franciscan monastery from the Spanish period, by the time of the Seminole Wars the building had been converted into an army barracks. In the Second Seminole War it was often headquarters for the commanding officer, especially during the summer, when interior posts were abandoned due to unhealthy conditions. Just to the south of the barracks is a small National Military Cemetery where a number of soldiers from the Second Seminole War are buried in individual graves. At the south end of the cemetery are three stone pyramids under which the remains of hundreds of fatalities from the war are interred, brought here at the end of the conflict. In front of the pyramids is an obelisk commemorating the dead of the war (see article, page 10). There is also a marker commemorating West Point

graduates slain in the war. The barracks now serve as Headquarters for the Florida National Guard and are closed to the public. The cemetery is open to the public.



St. Francis Barracks.





## Northeast Region

### St. Augustine

#### Theatrical Troupe Massacre Marker

From I-95 St. Augustine exit 318 (SR16), go west and take an immediate left onto CR208, then go 1.2 miles.

Site of an attack by Coacoochee on itinerant actors heading to St. Augustine from the port of Picolata on the St. Johns River.



#### Treaty Park Marker

1595 Wildwood Drive, 1 mile south of SR207. Marker is near playground and tennis courts.

Site of the signing of the Treaty of Moultrie Creek in 1823. The site was selected because Moultrie Creek was a waterway commonly used by the Seminole to travel to and from the interior of the Territory.

*"You have guns, and so have we—you have powder and lead, and so have we—your men will fight, and so will ours, till the last drop of the Seminole's blood has moistened the dust of his hunting ground."*

— Osceola

## Osceola

Although not a Florida native by birth nor a member of the ruling clan, Osceola became one of the Seminole's most outspoken and recognized leaders. His mother was a mixed-blood Creek who lived in Alabama. Some accounts insist his father was an Indian, while others claim his mother was married to William Powell, an English trader. As an adult he was commonly called Powell, but his Indian name was Asi-Yaholo, which would be corrupted to Osceola. He was later given the title Tallassee Tustennuggee in acknowledgement of his leadership capabilities.

Along with his mother, the young Osceola was driven to Florida after his people's defeat in the Creek Civil War (1813-14). During the First Seminole War, the boy was captured but later released.

Osceola's bold defiance to the Treaty of Payne's Landing attracted public attention and compelled other Seminole to oppose government policy. After an angry exchange with Indian Agent Wiley Thompson in the summer of 1835, Osceola was briefly imprisoned and swore revenge against the agent. On December 28, 1835, he took his revenge, assassinating Thompson outside Fort King.

On October 21, 1837, Osceola was seized while negotiating under a flag of truce. Imprisoned initially at Fort Marion in St. Augustine, he was transferred to Charleston after the escape of Coacoochee and his followers. Suffering from malaria when captured, Osceola died at Fort Moultrie on January 30, 1838, and was

buried with military honors. His bravery and cunning in battle, along with his dishonorable capture and subsequent death in captivity, served to make Osceola a martyr for the Seminole cause.



Osceola portrait by George Catlin, ca. 1837.



## Northwest Region

- 1: **Pensacola Area**
  - Fort Barrancas
  - Historic Pensacola Village
- 2: **Fort Pickens**
- 3: **Marianna Area**
  - Andrew Jackson in Florida (Marker)
  - Battle of Chipola
- 4: **Chattahoochee Area**
  - Apalachicola Arsenal
  - Scott Massacre Site
- 5: **Bountstown** (2 Markers)
- 6: **Fort Place** (Marker)
- 7: **Fort Gadsden**
- 8: **Tallahassee Area**
  - The Grove (Call/Collins House)
  - Historic Capitol, Parkhill Monument
  - Miccosukee Village (Marker)
  - Museum of Florida History
- 9: **San Marcos de Apalache State Park**
- 10: **Econfina River State Park**
- 11: **Falls of the Steinhatchee**
- 12: **Jackson Trail** (Marker)
- 13: **Suwannee Old Town** (Marker)

## Northeast Region

- 1: **Madison Area**
  - Blockhouse (Marker)
  - John Hicks, Hicktown (Marker)
- 2: **Chief Alligator** (Marker)
- 3: **Burnsed Blockhouse**
- 4: **Seminole War Blockhouse** (Marker)
- 5: **Fort Heilman** (Marker)
- 6: **St. Augustine Area**
  - Castillo de San Marcos
  - Fort Mosé Historic State Park
  - Fort Peyton (Marker)
  - St. Francis Barracks & Cemetery
  - Theatre Troupe Massacre (Marker)
  - Treaty Park (Marker)
- 7: **Flagler Beach Area**
  - Bulow Plantation State Park
  - Mala Compra Plantation
- 8: **Palatka Area**
  - Fort Shannon (Marker)
  - Palatka (Marker)
  - Putnam County Historical Society Museum
- 9: **Micanopy Area**
  - Newnan's Battle (Marker)
  - Paynes Prairie State Park
  - Town of Micanopy
- 10: **Gainesville Area**
  - Florida Museum of Natural History
  - Fort Clarke (Marker)
- 11: **Alachua Area**
  - Newnansville (Marker)
  - San Felasco Hammock
- 12: **Fort Fanning Historical Park**

## East Central Region

- 1: **Dummett Plantation**
- 2: **Port Orange/New Smyrna Area**
  - Dunlawton Plantation
  - New Smyrna Plantation
- 3: **De Leon Springs State Park**
- 4: **Fort Butler and Volusia** (Markers)
- 5: **Fort Mason** (Marker)
- 6: **Sanford Area**
  - Fort Reid (Marker)
  - Sanford Riverwalk Park
- 7: **Geneva Area**
  - Fort Lane (Marker)
  - King Phillip's Town (Marker)
- 8: **Orlando Area**
  - Fort Gatlin (Marker)
  - Fort Maitland (Marker)
  - Orange County Regional History Center
  - Orlando Reeves (Marker)
- 9: **Fort Christmas Historical Park**
- 10: **Haulover Canal/Fort Ann** (Marker)
- 11: **Hernandez Trail** (Marker)

## West Central Region

- 1: **Cedar Key State Park**
- 2: **Ocala Area**
  - Fort King Historic Park
  - Marion County Museum
  - Silver River Museum
- 3: **Camp Izard**
- 4: **Two Mile Preserve**
- 5: **Inverness Area**
  - Fort Cooper State Park
  - Old Courthouse Heritage Museum
- 6: **William Cooley** (Marker)
- 7: **Bushnell Area**
  - Battle of Wahoo Swamp (Marker)
  - Dade Battlefield Historic State Park
  - Fort Armstrong (Marker)
  - Maj. David Moniac Headstone
- 8: **Brooksville Area**
  - Charlotte Crum (Marker)
  - Chocochatti (Marker)
- 9: **Fort King Road** (Marker)
- 10: **Dade City Area**
  - Bradley Massacre (Marker)
  - Christmas Day, 1835 (Marker)
  - Fort Dade (Marker)
- 11: **Lake Hamilton/Lake Alfred**
  - Chief Chipco (Marker)
  - Fort Cummings (Marker)
- 12: **Fort Gardiner** (Marker)
- 13: **Bartow Area**
  - Fort Blount (Marker)
  - Fort Carroll (Marker)
  - Fort Fraser Trail
  - Polk County Historical Museum

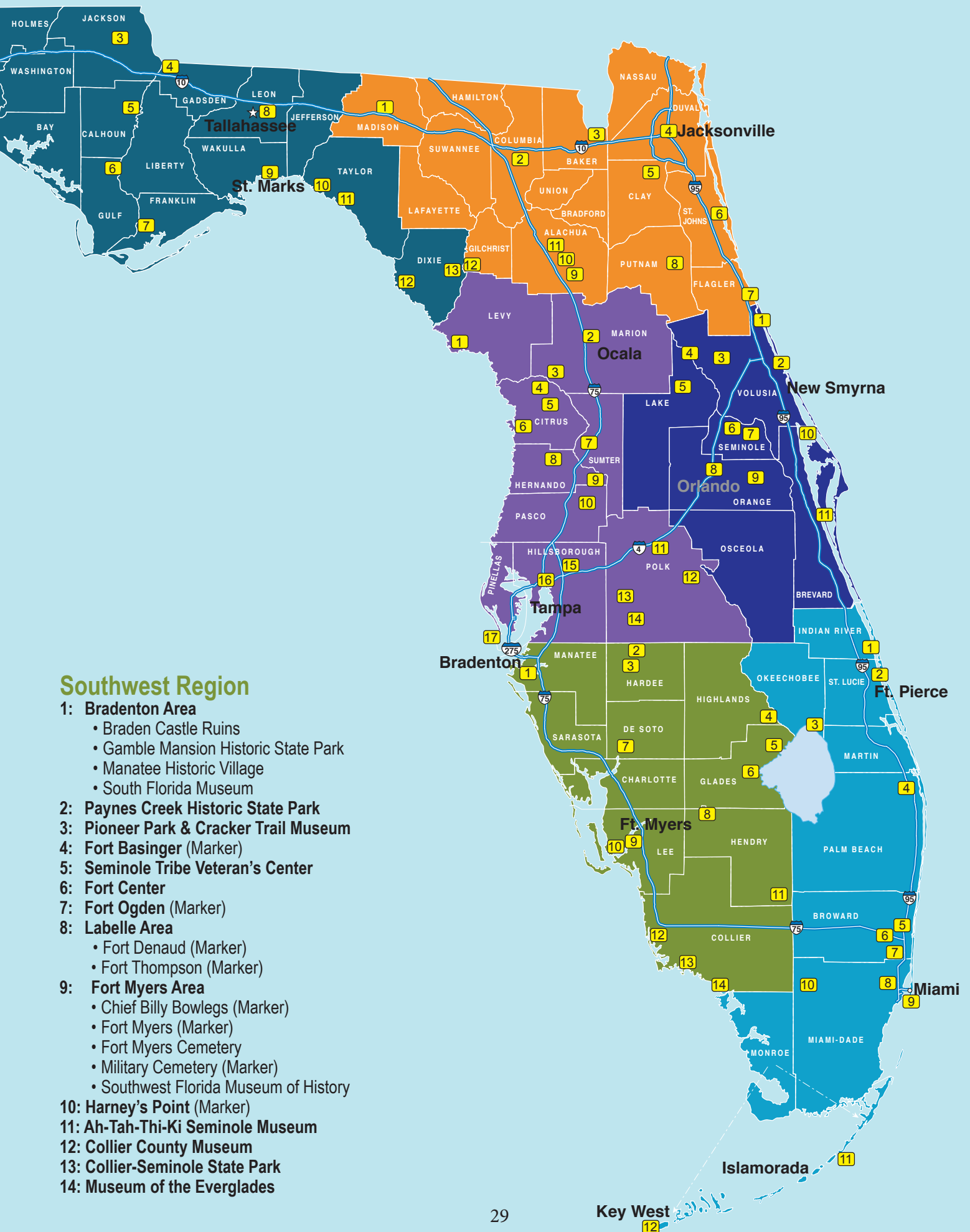


- 14: **Fort Meade Area**
  - Fort Meade (Marker)
  - Willoughby Tillis Battle Monument
- 15: **Fort Foster**
- 16: **Tampa Area**
  - Fort Brooke Cemetery (Marker)
  - Fort Brooke Officer's Quarters (Marker)
  - Fort King Road (Marker, Harney & Fowler)
  - Fort King Trail (Marker, Ybor City)
  - Oaklawn Cemetery (Marker)
  - Tampa Bay History Center
- 17: **Egmont Key State Park**

## Southeast Region

- 1: **Fort Vinton** (Marker)
- 2: **Fort Pierce Area**
  - Fort Capron (Marker)
  - Old Fort Pierce Park
  - St. Lucie County Regional History Center
- 3: **Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park**
- 4: **Jupiter Area**
  - Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and Museum
  - Loxahatchee Battlefield Park
  - Military Trail (Marker)
- 5: **Fort Lauderdale Area**
  - Cooley Massacre (Marker)
  - First Fort Lauderdale (Marker)
  - Fort Lauderdale Historical Society Museum
  - Indian Haulover
- 6: **Davie Area**
  - Long Key Nature Center
  - Maj. William Lauderdale Statue
  - Tree Tops Park/Pine Island Ridge
- 7: **Snake Warrior's Island Natural Area**
- 8: **Miami Area**
  - Fort Dallas
  - HistoryMiami Museum
  - Military Trail/Arch Creek (Marker)
- 9: **Cape Florida State Park**
- 10: **Miccosukee Indian Village and Museum**
- 11: **Indian Key State Park**
- 12: **Key West Military Memorial** (Marker)







## East Central Region

### Citizen Soldiers in the Seminole Wars

Throughout American history, the nation has often relied upon citizen soldiers to supplement the standing army. In the 19th century there was a strong belief in the efficacy of these types of forces, and the regular army was kept at minimal strength with the intention of calling up state forces in an emergency. The Seminole Wars were just such an emergency, and thousands of troops from neighboring states were called upon to fight in Florida, making up the majority of soldiers in some campaigns. Also fighting for the United States were many Lower Creek Indians, who considered the Seminole their enemy.

Although state forces often fought with enthusiasm, there were a number of problems associated with their use. Most volunteers lacked training, organization, discipline, and equipment. The biggest problem was a strong animosity that existed between volunteers and regulars that often led to violence and a lack of cooperation. Volunteers usually felt the regulars were unsuited to the guerilla-style warfare needed to defeat the Indians, while regulars believed the volunteers lacked necessary military skills. There was a certain amount of truth in both those beliefs.

Most such problems were alleviated by time. Regulars adapted and learned to fight on the Indian's terms, while volunteers learned discipline and gained battlefield experience. State forces proved their worth in the Third Seminole War, when a shortage of federal troops forced



Captain Winston Stephens, Florida Volunteers, 3rd Seminole War.  
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, [floridamemory.com/items/show/138734](http://floridamemory.com/items/show/138734))

most of the fighting upon the Florida Volunteers. It was they who obtained the most victories and eventually pressured many of the Seminole into surrendering.

### Brevard County

#### Cocoa

#### Haulover Canal/Fort Ann Marker

SR3, near north entrance to Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge  
Site of a narrow strip of land used by Native Americans, settlers, and soldiers to haul canoes and small boats between Indian River and Mosquito Lagoon. Fort Ann was erected during the Second Seminole War to protect the crossing.

#### Hernandez Trail Marker

US1 at King Street

Near the path of a major north-south military road used during the Seminole Wars. The road was named in honor of Brigadier General Joseph Hernandez of the Territorial Militia and Florida's first Delegate to Congress.

### Lake County

#### Astor

#### Fort Butler Marker

0.2 mile west of St. Johns River Bridge on SR40

Fort erected during the Second Seminole War to protect the road leading into the interior from the town of Volusia on the opposite side of the river.

#### Umatilla

#### Fort Mason Marker

Larkin Park SR19

The fort was erected to protect the route from Volusia on the St. Johns River to the areas of fighting near the Withlacoochee River.





## East Central Region

### Orange County Christmas

#### Fort Christmas Historical Park

CR420, 1.9 miles north of SR50 (10 miles west of I-95)  
407.254.9310

This beautiful park features a reconstructed fort containing a museum with a large Seminole War exhibit. The site received its name when a column of General Jesup's army stopped at this location and erected the fort on Christmas Day, 1837. Also within the park are a number of preserved pioneer settlement buildings.



Fort Christmas Historical Park.

### Orlando

#### Fort Gatlin Marker

Summerlin Street near Gatlin Avenue

Site of Fort Gatlin. The settlement that grew around it became the town of Orlando. An informational kiosk accompanies the marker.

#### Fort Maitland Markers

US17/92 and Lake Lily Drive, Maitland

There are two markers. One is in Fort Maitland Park, the other is a small stone monument at the entrance to West Cove Condominium, just south of the park.

#### Orange County Regional History Center

65 E. Central Boulevard  
407.836.8500

[thehistorycenter.org](http://thehistorycenter.org)

The museum has a large exhibit on Seminole War history and the founding of Orlando from Fort Gatlin. The museum is housed in the old Orange County Courthouse in downtown Orlando.

#### Orlando Reeves Marker

Stone marker near the southeast corner of Lake Eola Park

There is no record of an Orlando Reeves having served or died in the war, and the legend of the town's naming may not be true.

### Seminole County

### Geneva

#### Fort Lane Marker

In a park at Lake Harney, 2400 Fort Lane Road (go 2.5 miles south of town on SR46, turn east onto Jungle Road, then right on Fort Lane Road)

Fort erected during General Jesup's campaign of 1837 as a supply depot and to house troops patrolling the area. Marker is at water's edge, by pavilion.

#### King Phillip's Town Marker

Northeast of town at the end of Osceola Fish Camp Road, off Osceola Road, in parking area for Lake Harney Wilderness Area

Site of a major Indian village occupied by Coacoochee and his father, King Phillip. The nearby mound complex is also a significant pre-contact archaeological site.

### Sanford

#### Fort Reid Marker

Catalina Drive & Mellonville Avenue, in Speer Grove Park

Site of a fort occupied by a large force of Dragoons (cavalry) during the 1840s.

#### Sanford Riverwalk Park

There are several informational displays and a stone marker along the 1 mile walkway that follows the shoreline of Lake Monroe

In the early morning hours of February 8, 1837, a force of several hundred Seminole led by King Phillip attacked a newly-erected supply depot on the south shore of Lake Monroe. After a fierce fight lasting several hours, the Indians were repulsed with the aid of a cannon mounted on a steamboat anchored in the lake. The army's only death was Captain Charles Mellon, and a fort erected on the site was named in his honor.



Sanford Riverwalk Park.

(Image courtesy of Dr. Sam Smith)





## East Central Region



Marines battle the Seminole Indians at the Florida War, 1835-42.  
(Image courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps Museum)

### The U.S. Navy in the Second Seminole War

When war broke out in late 1835, the U.S. Navy and Revenue Service (forerunner of the Coast Guard) immediately began transporting men and material to Fort Brooke and other posts in need of support. Warships guarded the coastline to prevent the Indians from obtaining weapons from Cuba or the Bahamas, while smaller vessels patrolled the inland waters. The navy and marines were also called upon to garrison forts, escort wagon trains, and fight the Indians.

The army soon discovered it was ill-equipped for operations in a watery wilderness covered with numerous lakes and rivers, a situation that led to requests for naval assistance in conducting offensive operations. A new type of warfare was called for, and the task fell to two talented and dedicated naval officers, Lieutenants Levin M. Powell and John T. McLaughlin.

Lieutenant Powell was the first to lead combined army/navy expeditions against the Seminole. Using small purpose-built watercraft to transport sailors, marines, and soldiers, he penetrated the Everglades to attack villages and destroy crops. One of the most significant actions took place on January 15, 1838 at the Loxahatchee River near Jupiter (*see article, page 46*).

Lieutenant McLaughlin took command in 1839 of an expanded force of 600 men and a fleet of 200 small craft known as the "Mosquito Fleet." The expeditions and operations in the Everglades, Big Cypress Swamp, and along the coast continued, putting constant pressure on the Seminole and forcing many to surrender. This new type of "riverine" warfare contributed significantly to bringing about an end to the Second Seminole War.

— Article by Harry Pickering

### Volusia County

The area around the St. Johns River was the heart of Florida's sugar industry, and the ruins of several sugar plantations destroyed by the Indians are located in Volusia County.

#### De Leon Springs

##### Spring Garden Plantation

De Leon Springs State Park, 601 Ponce De Leon Boulevard  
386.985.4212

[floridastateparks.org](http://floridastateparks.org)

Machinery and stonework from the water-powered sugar mill is on display near a beautiful spring.



Waterwheel hub and axle, De Leon Springs State Park.

#### New Smyrna Beach

##### New Smyrna Sugar Mill Ruins

600 Mission Drive

A very nice set of ruins at a county park. Informational displays tell of the mill's operation and destruction.



New Smyrna Sugar Mill Ruins.



Buckle from 1839 pattern  
Dragoon saber belt.

(Image courtesy of the  
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum)





## East Central Region

### Ormond Beach

#### Dummett Plantation Ruins


1.7 miles north of the entrance to Tomoka State Park, Old Dixie Highway (Beach Street)

A small set of ruins enclosed by a fence at a wayside park.

### Port Orange

#### Dunlawton Plantation Sugar Mill Ruins

950 Old Sugar Mill Road

Site of one of the Second Seminole War's early battles (*see article, page 23*), the ruins are located in the Dunlawton Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens. The brickwork and parts of the steam engine from the sugar works are well preserved, and the accompanying gardens and walkways are an added bonus. An historical marker  is in the parking lot.

### Volusia

#### Volusia Marker

Just east of the St. Johns River Bridge, under the "Volusia Oak"

The town was a major port on the St. Johns River, supplying men and material to posts further inland and south along the river.



Dunlawton Plantation Sugar Mill Ruins.

### Winfield Scott and the Fortunes of War

When news of the war's outbreak reached Washington in January 1836, President Jackson ordered Major General Winfield Scott to take charge of the war effort. A general before age 30 and a hero of the War of 1812, Scott stood 6'5" and had earned the nickname "Old Fuss



Major General Winfield Scott, portrait by George Catlin, ca. 1835.

and Feathers" for his love of military ceremony. As the nation's leading tactician, he was the obvious choice to crush the Seminole.

Unfortunately for Scott, his expertise was in Napoleonic warfare, not Indian fighting, and things did not go well. His plan was to divide his 5,000 men into three columns, all to converge in a precisely-timed pincer movement on the Cove of the Withlacoochee, the Seminole stronghold. Between a shortage of supplies, poor communications, the unmapped terrain, and Seminole attacks, the timing quickly fell apart. With the exception of a small battle fought near the Withlacoochee River on March 31, 1836, and the 18-day Seminole siege of Fort Cooper (*page 34*), there was little action and few Seminole were killed or captured. The Indians, well aware of the army's approach, evacuated the area and refused to take on the large army except when it was to their advantage. Unhappy with Scott's performance, Jackson removed the general from command of the war and ordered a court of inquiry into Scott's conduct of the campaign.

The entire campaign proved an embarrassment to Scott, but did little to harm his career. He went on to achieve further fame with his conquest of Mexico a decade later, and was still Commanding General of the Army at the commencement of the Civil War.





## West Central Region

### Citrus County

#### Dunnellon

#### Two Mile Preserve

Trailhead is on E. Withlacoochee Trail, 5 miles east of US41.  
[swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation](http://swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation)

The site of General Clinch's Battle of the Withlacoochee (*see article, this page*). Part of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the preserve has hiking trails, one of which leads to an observation tower overlooking a pond and clearing.

#### Homosassa

#### William Cooley Marker

Tour Boat Landing on W. Fishbowl Drive behind Ellie Schiller Homosassa Wildlife State Park (4150 South Suncoast Boulevard)

Dedicated to one of the area's first settlers, who came to the area after his family was slain in 1836 by Indians near what is now downtown Fort Lauderdale (*see marker, page 42*).

#### Inverness

#### Fort Cooper State Park

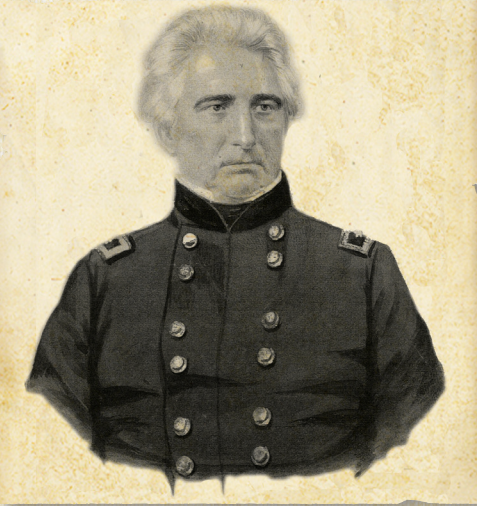
3100 S. Old Floral City Road  
352.726.0315

[floridastateparks.org/park/Fort-Cooper](http://floridastateparks.org/park/Fort-Cooper)

In April 1836 General Winfield Scott ordered a force of approximately 300 Georgia Volunteers to erect a fort on this site. The fort was held under siege for over two weeks before being relieved. The park features a Seminole Heritage Trail with kiosks detailing the history of the local Indians, the fort, and the Seminole War.



Battle Reenactment at Fort Cooper State Park, Inverness.



Brigadier General Duncan Lamont Clinch  
(Image courtesy of the Library of Congress)

### Duncan Clinch and the Battle of the Withlacoochee

Brigadier General Duncan Lamont Clinch was the officer in charge of United States troops in Florida in the years leading up to the Second Seminole War. An able soldier who was respected both by his superiors in Washington and the Indians of Florida, Clinch did his best to keep the peace.

At the behest of Florida Militia General Richard Keith Call, Clinch intended to make a swift march deep into the Indian enclave south of the Withlacoochee River. The operation bogged down early after the troops took three days to reach the Withlacoochee and then divided, with the regulars slowly crossing in a single canoe while the volunteers remained on the north side. On December 31, 1835 after the regulars were gathered on the south side of the river, Osceola and the war leader Alligator attacked them. The sudden assault pitted 250 Seminole warriors against 750 United States soldiers, more than half of whom never made it to the south side of the river to join the fray. This strategy was to become the trademark for future Seminole actions. Clinch was forced to attempt an aggressive defense in swampy terrain with the Seminole moving in and out from the trees, inflicting alarming casualties on his troops. Forced to deal with the mounting number of wounded, Clinch ordered a withdrawal. The Seminole had ably demonstrated in two major battles their strong resolve to stay in Florida. The war for Florida and Seminole survival was on.

— Article by Gary Ellis





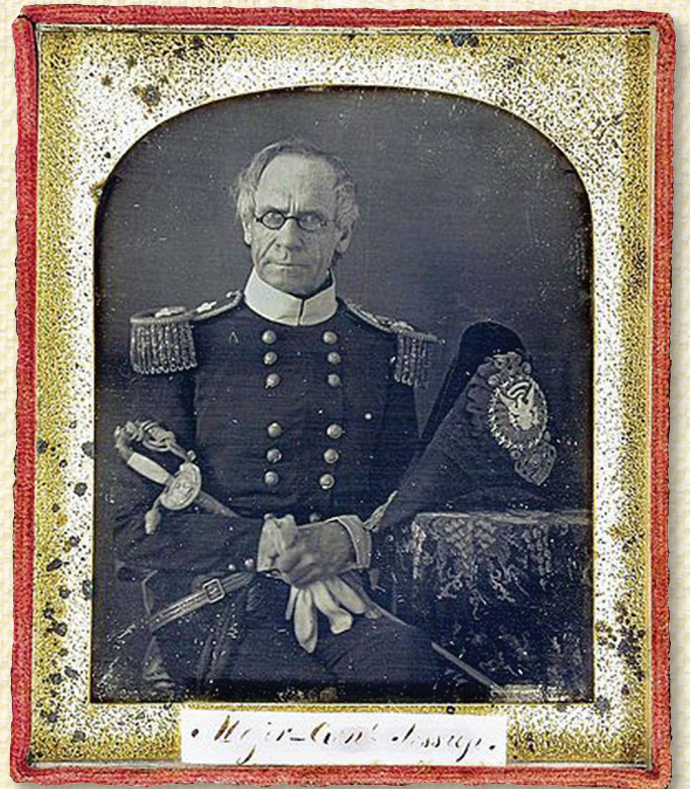
## West Central Region

### Thomas Jesup and the Fort Dade Capitulation

"I now for the first time have allowed myself to believe the war at an end," Major General Thomas S. Jesup wrote from his headquarters at Fort Dade on the Withlacoochee River. Jesup, the army's Quartermaster General and a combat veteran of the War of 1812, had realized the Seminole would not be defeated in one swift campaign. By building numerous forts, keeping them well-supplied, and sending out harassing patrols, Jesup had applied unrelenting pressure on the Seminole.

On the 17th of March, 1837, the principle chief of the Seminole, Micanopy, came to Fort Dade and told Jesup "he had never before consented to emigrate; but that he now believed the Great Spirit had so ordered, that he should leave the land of his fathers." The Articles of Capitulation, already agreed to by three lesser chiefs, were read to him. He "submitted cheerfully," giving his consent. Hundreds of Seminole began to gather near Fort Brooke at Tampa Bay.

As word spread among white Floridians that the Black Seminole "allies" were to accompany the Indians to the new homes west of the Mississippi, trouble surfaced. The Indians began to feel uneasy as slave catchers gathered around the camp, hoping to catch unwary blacks. Other Indians, such as Osceola and Sam Jones, refused to give up the fight, and on June 2 they led the Seminole away from the camp in the dead of night. The peace Jesup



Major General Thomas S. Jesup, ca. 1847.

had worked so hard for had lasted less than 90 days. Infuriated by what he considered Seminole treachery, Jesup soon instituted the policy of taking prisoner any Indian who came in to negotiate. Many Americans considered the policy dishonorable, and it left a shadow on Jesup's reputation for the rest of his life.

— Article by Frank Laumer

### Old Citrus County Courthouse Heritage Museum

1 Courthouse Square  
352.341.6429

Located in the old Citrus County Courthouse, this fine museum has displays on the Seminole Wars and several artifacts from the period.

### — Hernando County — Brooksville

#### Charlotte Wynn Pyles Crum Marker

Brooksville Cemetery, 1275 Olmes Road, near the main entrance

The marker tells the story of Charlotte Crum, an early settler of Brooksville and one of the last fatalities of the Second Seminole War.

#### Chocochatti Marker

SR50 & Alternate SR50, east of town

Marks the location of a large Seminole settlement attacked by the army during the Second Seminole War.

#### Ridge Manor

#### Fort King Road Marker

SR50 & US301

One of several markers along the path of the Fort King Road, an important military trail during the Second Seminole War (see article, page 38).

*"To persevere in the course we have been pursuing for three years past would be a reckless waste of blood and treasure."*

— Major General Thomas S. Jesup





## West Central Region

### Women in the Seminole Wars

Fighting in wars has traditionally been the province of men, yet the suffering brought on by warfare very often falls most heavily upon non-combatant women and their children. The Seminole Wars was just such a conflict. Isolated homesteads were among the Seminole's favored targets, while the army placed a priority upon capturing Indian families as a means of forcing warriors to surrender.

An army attack upon a Seminole village often meant the loss of home and valuable possessions, even if the women managed to elude capture. Army Surgeon Jacob R. Motte commented upon a group of captured women, writing, "The squaws engaged in picking up the corn which our horses dropped from their mouths while eating ... many having nothing around them but the old corn bags we had thrown away."

White women living outside fortified towns could feel just as vulnerable. Settler Corinna Brown told her brother, "Nobody is ... safe while the whole river lies open to the attacks of the savages without one solitary soldier to defend it. ... There are many families ... turned out of their homes without money and without food."

Women on both sides learned to be resilient and self-sufficient. When their villages were destroyed, Indian women set about building new camps and planting new fields. Most were as determined as the warriors not to be driven from their homes. Polly Parker, forced to emigrate

in 1858, escaped from the steamer when it docked at St. Marks to take on fuel. Telling her guards she and other women were going ashore to gather medicinal herbs, she fled south, making her way back to the Everglades, where she eventually became an important tribal matriarch.

White women, both in Florida and around the nation, learned how to manage the farm or support themselves without assistance from their spouses, all the while worrying for their loved one's safety. The wife of Captain John Rogers Vinton wrote to her husband, "Oh! I am sick at heart for since the receipt of your last letter describing the Battle of Camp Monroe, my fears for you are more alive than ever." Many women, on both sides, experienced the anguish of loss or unending burdens when their loved ones failed to return from the war or came back with debilitating wounds or diseases.



Polly Parker.  
(Image courtesy of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum)

### Hillsborough County

#### Tampa

#### Fort Brooke Cemetery Marker

N. Franklin Street (Fort Brooke Parking Garage, in mall)

Site of the cemetery of Fort Brooke, one of the major posts of the Second and Third Seminole Wars, and the first post erected after Florida was obtained from Spain in 1821. The cemetery contained the remains of both soldiers and Indians.

#### Fort Brooke Mass Grave Marker

Oaklawn Cemetery, E. Harrison & N. Morgan Streets

Remains from the Fort Brooke Cemetery were reinterred in this cemetery after being discovered during 20th century construction.

#### Fort Brooke Officer's Quarters Marker

N. Franklin Street (Fort Brooke Parking Garage, at trolley terminal)

Marks the location of the Officer's Quarters of Fort Brooke, the beginning of the city of Tampa.



Fort Brooke in the 1830s.  
(Image courtesy of the Library of Congress)





## West Central Region

### Tampa Bay History Center

810 Old Water Street

813.228.0097

[tampabayhistorycenter.org](http://tampabayhistorycenter.org)

"Coacoochee's Story" is a permanent theatrical-style exhibit about the Second Seminole War from the viewpoints of a Seminole leader and an army officer. There are also several other exhibits pertaining to the Seminole Wars. Sixteen markers telling the history of early Tampa and Fort Brooke are in the park adjacent to the History Center.



Historical markers, in park adjacent to Tampa Bay History Center.

### Tampa Bay

### Egmont Key State Park

Accessible by boat only

727.893.2627

[floridastateparks.org/park/Egmont-Key](http://floridastateparks.org/park/Egmont-Key)

The island was used as the final detention center and prisoner camp for Seminole who were awaiting transport to the West during the Third Seminole War. A small cemetery contains the remains of those who died while awaiting transport.

### Thonotosassa

### Fort Foster at Hillsborough River State Park

15402 US301 North

813.987.6771

[floridastateparks.org/park/Hillsborough-River](http://floridastateparks.org/park/Hillsborough-River)

A fully reconstructed fort from the Second Seminole War. Tours with guides are held on Saturdays at 10:00 and 4:00, and Sundays at 11:00. Not open to the public at other times, except for special events. There is also a display of artifacts from the fort on display at the park's interpretive center.



Fort Foster, Hillsborough River State Park.

(Image courtesy of Florida State Parks)

### Edmund Gaines and the Battle at Camp Izard

News of the destruction of Major Dade's command reached New Orleans on January 11, 1836. The State of Louisiana and Major General Edmund P. Gaines, commander of the Western Department of the Army, immediately began to raise an army to put down the Indian uprising. Gaines and about 1,100 men, mostly Louisiana Volunteers, arrived at Tampa Bay on February 9. Gaines immediately advanced up the Fort King Road, and his troops were the first to arrive at the Dade Battle site and bury the dead. Finding little in the way of supplies at Fort King, Gaines decided to return to Fort Brooke through the Seminole stronghold of the Cove of the Withlacoochee River.



Major General Edmund Gaines.  
(Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida  
[floridamemory.com/items/show/25572](http://floridamemory.com/items/show/25572))

Lieutenant James F. Izard, in advance of the main army column, had just entered the Withlacoochee when a large force of Seminole defenders opened fire from the south riverbank. Izard received a bullet in the nose that passed behind his left eye. The Seminole pressed their attack on the first day from early morning to late afternoon, and Gaines ordered his troops to build a temporary breastwork of horizontal logs, naming it in honor of the dying Lieutenant Izard. Throughout the siege, Gaines continued to send dispatches to Fort King requesting troops, materials, and subsistence, believing that with reinforcements a real opportunity existed to defeat the entire Seminole force in one major engagement. As the battle continued into early March the plight of the soldiers grew worse with respect to diminishing food supplies, poor water, and the accumulation of wounded. Horses, draft animals, and even dogs were consumed by the troops.

On the evening of March 5, Abraham, the principal slave of Micanopy, proffered a parley. The following day Osceola offered to lift the siege and free the soldiers if Gaines would withdraw his army and agree to allow the Indians to live in peace south of the Withlacoochee River. At this juncture General Clinch's relief column came into view, ending the negotiations and the siege. On March 9 Gaines turned over the command of his army to Clinch and a retreat commenced a few days later.

— Article by Gary Ellis





## West Central Region

### Fort King Road Monument

At the intersection of Harney & Fowler Streets

A point along the military trail is marked by a small stone monument in the center of a triangular median.

#### Ybor City

### Fort King Trail Marker

E. 8th Avenue, near Angel Oliva Senior Street

The marker denotes the beginning of the Fort King Road, which ran from Tampa to Fort King at Ocala.

## Levy County

#### Cedar Key

### Cedar Key State Park

12231 SW 166th Court

352.543.5350

[floridastateparks.org/park/Cedar-Key-Museum](http://floridastateparks.org/park/Cedar-Key-Museum)

Cedar Key was a major supply depot during the Second Seminole War and Colonel Worth's headquarters when the war was declared over on August 15, 1842. Seminole prisoners awaiting deportation to the west were held at Seahorse Key, just offshore. The state park museum has a small exhibit about the war. Also worth visiting is the Cedar Key Museum at 609 Second Street.

## Marion County

#### Dunnellon

### Camp Izard

Trailhead is 5.2 miles east of town on CR484

352.796.7211

[swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation](http://swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation)

Scene of the Second Seminole War's largest battle, where the Seminole held 1,000 soldiers under siege for over a week (*see article, page 37*). The site is undeveloped and part of the Halpata Tastanaki Preserve of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, named in honor of Chief Alligator (*see marker, page 22*). Contact the District office or website for information and trail maps. Approximately four-mile hike one way.

#### Ocala

### Fort King National Historic Landmark

3952 E. Fort King Street

[fkha.org](http://fkha.org)

Site of the Seminole Indian Agency and a major post during the Second Seminole War, the fort was the beginning of Ocala and the place where Osceola killed Agent Wiley Thompson on December 28, 1835, the same day as the Dade Battle. The park opened in 2014 with hiking trails and a visitor center.

## The Fort King Road

The Fort King Road was a 20-foot wide military trail cleared through the wilderness of central Florida by U.S. soldiers in 1827. Its starting point was Fort Brooke (Tampa) and its terminus was about 100 miles north at



Monuments to fallen officers, Fort King Road, Dade Battlefield Historic State Park.

Fort King (Ocala). For most of the the Second Seminole War it was the primary thoroughfare through central Florida, and the nearby areas saw some of the fiercest fighting of the war. Uncounted thousands of soldiers marched this route, accompanied by tons of supplies. When

soldiers weren't around, the Seminole used it too.

The path was cut by 80 axe-wielding soldiers who chopped down trees and cut the stumps to a height lower than the axle of the lowest military vehicle. All the stumps were cupped to hold rain water and hasten decay.

There is not much left of the old road; time and construction have destroyed most of it. There are some places where for short distances it can be seen, but most are on private property. U.S. Highway 301 has taken its place over the years, and the path of the old road wanders back and forth across it.

At Hillsborough River State Park you can tour a replica of Fort Foster, built to protect the road and bridge from marauding Seminoles. Near Bushnell you will find the most well-marked portion of the road at the Dade Battlefield Historic State Park. Take a few minutes and walk the path so many men did, never knowing when or where their journey might end.

— Article by Jerry Morris





## West Central Region

### Marion County Museum of History & Archaeology

307 SE 26th Terrace  
352.236.5245  
[marioncountyarchaeology.com](http://marioncountyarchaeology.com)

Features exhibits on early Marion County history, including Fort King and the Second Seminole War.

### Silver River Museum

Silver River State Park  
1425 NE 58th Avenue  
352.236.5401  
[marion.k12.fl.us/district/srm](http://marion.k12.fl.us/district/srm)  
[floridastateparks.org/park/Silver-Springs](http://floridastateparks.org/park/Silver-Springs)

The museum has several exhibits on the Seminole Indians and Second Seminole War. Operated by Marion County Public Schools, it is open to the public only on weekends.



Silver River Museum.

## Pasco County

### Dade City

### Bradley Massacre Monument

Located at CR581 & Darby Road; take SR52, 2 miles west of I-75, then north 2.6 miles on CR581

In the northern-most event of the Third Seminole War, Indians attacked the home of Captain Richard Bradley, killing his young daughter and fifteen-year-old son before being driven off by gunfire from the cabin.



Bradley Massacre Monument.

### Christmas Day 1835 Marker

Located on Fort King Road behind Pasco High School (36850 SR52)

Marks the campsite of Major Dade's command three days before they were ambushed at the Dade Battle in Bushnell (*see article, page 41*).

### Fort Dade Marker

2.1 miles south of SR50 on US301, just south of Withlacoochee bridge, Ridge Manor

Fort Dade was established to guard the Fort King Road bridge over the Withlacoochee River. In February and March 1837 talks were held here that brought a temporary end to the Second Seminole War (*see article, page 35*).

## Polk County

### Bartow

### Fort Blount Monument

Main & Carpenter Streets, in the park next to the Polk County Historical Museum

Stone monument commemorating the site of the Third Seminole War fort that would eventually become the city of Bartow.

### Fort Carroll Marker

SR60, 2 miles east of town, at the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch  
Marks the site of a supply depot erected in 1841.

### Fort Fraser Trail

The hiking/biking trail extends alongside US98 from Bartow to Lakeland

There are two markers (not always visible from the roadway). One is at the trailhead at CR540 and the other midway between CR540A and Smith Lane.



Fort Fraser Trail.





## West Central Region

### Polk County Historical Museum

Located in the old county courthouse, 100 E. Main Street  
863.534.4381

[polk-county.net](http://polk-county.net)

This large museum has a pair of exhibits on the Seminole Wars and their effect on local history.



Polk County Historical Museum.

### Fort Meade

#### Fort Meade Marker

3rd Street NE, at park east of Cleveland Avenue

Marks the location of Fort Meade, a major post in the Third Seminole War.

#### Willoughby Tillis Battle Monument

One block south of US98 at S. Church Street

Monument erected to those slain in a decisive battle of the Third Seminole War (*see article, page 50*).

### Lake Alfred

#### Fort Cummings Marker

W. Pierce Street & US17/92 North

Commemorates a nearby fort erected to protect the road between Fort Brooke in Tampa and Fort Mellon (Sanford).

### Lake Hamilton

#### Chief Chipco Marker

Sample Park, west side of US27, 1.8 miles north of SR542

Memorial to a Seminole leader from the Third Seminole War era who was friendly to the neighboring whites.

### Lake Wales

#### Fort Gardiner Marker

Camp Mack Road & Roasalie Boulevard, 3.4 miles west of Lake Kissimmee State Park

Marks the nearby location of a fort built in December 1837 by Colonel Zachary Taylor along the route from Tampa to the battle at Lake Okeechobee.

## Sumter County

### Bushnell

#### Battle of Wahoo Swamp Marker

5.6 miles west of I-75 on SR48

Marks the location of an important battle of the Second Seminole War, where the Seminole stopped the advance of a force led by Territorial Governor Richard K. Call (*see article, page 17*).

#### Fort Armstrong Monument

North of the Dade Battlefield Historic State Park on CR476

Marks the location of one of a series of forts erected to protect the Fort King Road.

#### Major David Moniac Commemorative Headstone

Florida National Cemetery,  
6502 SW 102nd Avenue;  
Section MD, site 1

The first Native American West Point graduate, Major Moniac was killed at the Battle of Wahoo Swamp while leading Creek Indian Volunteers serving with the American army. The marker is commemorative only; his remains are believed to be under the pyramids at the National Cemetery in St. Augustine.



Major David Moniac commemorative headstone.



Replica of 1830s army forage cap; by Dr. Ray Giron.  
(Image courtesy of Jerry Morris)





## West Central Region

### Dade Battlefield Historic State Park

7200 CR603

352.793.4781

[floridastateparks.org/park/Dade-Battlefield](http://floridastateparks.org/park/Dade-Battlefield)

Site of the deadliest battle of the Seminole Wars. On December 28, 1835, the Seminoles, determined not to be driven from their homes, ambushed and

annihilated a column of 108 soldiers at this place (*see article, below*).

The park has an excellent museum explaining the battle and contains artifacts from the site. Visitors can walk the same path the doomed soldiers trod and stand within a replica of the small defensive enclosure where many of them made their last stand.

### Death in December: The Dade Battle

It was a Monday, three days after Christmas, 1835. Major Francis Langhorne Dade was in command; eight officers, 100 men marching two by two, and a black interpreter, Luis Pacheco. Six days out of Fort Brooke at Tampa Bay, two days from their destination, Fort King at Ocala.

Dade rode easy in the saddle. The Seminoles were out there somewhere, had been from the start, but the rivers and swamps were behind them. If the Indians hadn't struck at the four river crossings, they were not likely to try it now. Ahead, as far as he could see, were tall pines, their trunks as bare as flag poles. He called out to the men, "Our difficulties and dangers are over now. We'll soon be in Fort King. You'll have three days off and keep Christmas gaily!"

What he didn't see were 180 Seminole warriors lying low in the grass, hidden by the pines. The time for talking had passed. The time to fight for their peoples' existence had come. Sixty yards out, ahead of the advance guard,

to the west of the road and beyond the rear guard and the cannon, they held their rifles and waited.

The chief, Micanopy, rose and took aim at the tall officer on horseback. He knew him, had been his friend in Tampa. He fired. Dade cried out, "My God!" and fell to the side, shot through the heart and dead before he hit the ground.

Nearly half the column of 108 soldiers were dead or wounded after the first Seminole volley. The survivors took up defensive positions and began to return fire, using a cannon to force the Indians to withdraw. During the respite, the soldiers chopped down trees to form a crude triangular breastwork, cared for the wounded, gathered their ammunition. After about an hour, the Seminoles returned, advancing cautiously, picking off the doomed soldiers one by one. By the end of the day, all but three of Dade's men were dead. Only two would survive the painful journey back to Fort Brooke. The fight for Seminole freedom and the Second Seminole War had begun.

— Article by Frank Laumer



Dade Battle Reenactment, Dade Battlefield Historic State Park.



Embroidered leather money belt and silk sash worn by Lieutenant William Basinger, killed at the Dade Battle, December 28, 1835. (Image courtesy of the Collection of the Museum of Florida History)





## Southeast Region



Mural at Long Key Nature Center.

### Sam Jones: The Man Who Would Not Give Up

Abiaka or Sam Jones was born ca. 1781, and became the dedicated force behind one of the strongest resistance movements in American Indian history.

Residing in the Everglades before 1828, Jones was 54 years old at the outbreak of the Second Seminole War, in which he, as Mikasuki spiritual leader, instigated, incited, and strategized. In March 1837, the hereditary leader of the Mikasuki, Micanopy, capitulated to removal with 700 followers. Jones staged a coup against him in June, which resulted in Jones' election as head of the combined Seminole force opposing removal. Jones' warriors and emissaries were young, visible, and gregarious: Osceola, Cooacoochee, and Chitto Tustenuggee. Jones, on the other hand, was acutely cautious, knowing that his capture would have ended both the movement and the war.

He was the strategist behind the major pitched battles at Okeechobee (December 1837) and Loxahatchee (January 1838). In the Everglades and Big Cypress, he orchestrated the cultivation of subsistence crops and instituted supply lines north, utilizing a secret inland waterway. Considered a supernatural, his powers as a medicine man were feared by friend and foe alike, while his harsh dictums were swiftly enforced through the machinations of his Red Stick "Prophet."

Seventy-eight years old at the beginning of the Third Seminole War, his leadership position was never relinquished. At war's end, with the Alachuas under Bowlegs having emigrated, Jones' Mikasuki people represented four-fifths of the Indians in Florida. He died peaceably in the 1860s knowing that he had indeed won, and his people would remain and thrive in Florida.



Sam Jones statue at Tree Tops Park in Davie.  
(Bronze by Cooley)

— Article by Patsy West

## Broward County

### Davie

#### Long Key Nature Center and Natural Area

3501 SW 130th Avenue

954.357.8797

[broward.org/parks/LongKeyNaturalArea](http://broward.org/parks/LongKeyNaturalArea)

The Nature Center has an excellent exhibit on the Seminole and the war-time Everglades ecosystem. Nature trails lead into what was once a major Seminole village, located on land that was of a slightly higher elevation than the surrounding Everglades.

#### Tree Tops Park/Pine Island Ridge

3900 SW 100th Avenue

954.357.5130

[broward.org/parks/TreeTopsPark](http://broward.org/parks/TreeTopsPark)

Known as "Sam Jones' Island" during the Seminole Wars, this elevated area was an important Seminole village. A statue of Jones (*see article, this page*) leading a Seminole woman and her child to safety stands behind the visitor center, which has an extensive display about him. A nearby path leads into the Pine Island Ridge Natural Area and to a statue of Major William Lauderdale, the namesake of Fort Lauderdale. The statue can also be seen by entering Forest Ridge subdivision from Pine Island Road.

On March 22, 1838, 350 troops from Fort Lauderdale approached the island in small boats and were fired upon by the Indians. The soldiers spread out, nearly surrounding the village. Fighting continued until nightfall, when the Seminole made their escape. This action forced the Seminole from the eastern Everglades and into the more heavily-wooded Big Cypress.

### Fort Lauderdale

#### Cooley Massacre Monument

Colee Hammock Park, 1500 Brickell Drive

Site of an attack on the isolated homestead of the Cooley family at the beginning of the Second Seminole War. The Indians attacked while William Cooley was away, killing his wife, three children, and the children's tutor (*see Cooley Marker, page 34*).





## Southeast Region



Major William Lauderdale Statue, by sculptor Luis Montoya.  
Located at Pine Island Ridge Park (see previous page).

### **First Fort Lauderdale Marker**

400 SW 11th Avenue

Site of the first of three Fort Lauderdals. The first fort was built near the forks of New River, the second farther downstream to accommodate larger vessels, and the third on a barrier island near the ocean.

### **Fort Lauderdale Historical Society Museum**

219 SW 2nd Avenue  
954.463.4431

The museum has a display featuring life-size mannequins in Seminole warrior dress and soldier's uniform, and a diorama of the fort with a map showing the locations of the three Fort Lauderdals.

### **Fort Lauderdale Beach**

### **Indian Haulover Marker**

At the entrance to Bahia Mar Yacht Harbor,  
801 Seabreeze Boulevard

Near the site of the third Fort Lauderdale, which was active until the war's end in 1842. There is also a stone monument across the street, on the beach.

### **Miramar**

### **Snake Warrior's Island Natural Area**

3600 SW 62nd Avenue  
954.357.8776

[broward.org/parks/SnakeWarriorsIsland](http://broward.org/parks/SnakeWarriorsIsland)

This wildlife preserve was once the home of Chitto Tustennuggee, Seminole war leader and associate of Sam Jones. The park has hiking trails and informational kiosks.

## Indian River County

### Vero Beach

### **Fort Vinton Marker**

SR60 and 122nd Avenue, 3.5 miles west of I-95

Site of a fort erected after the Scare of 1849, when it was believed another Indian war might erupt.

## Miami-Dade County

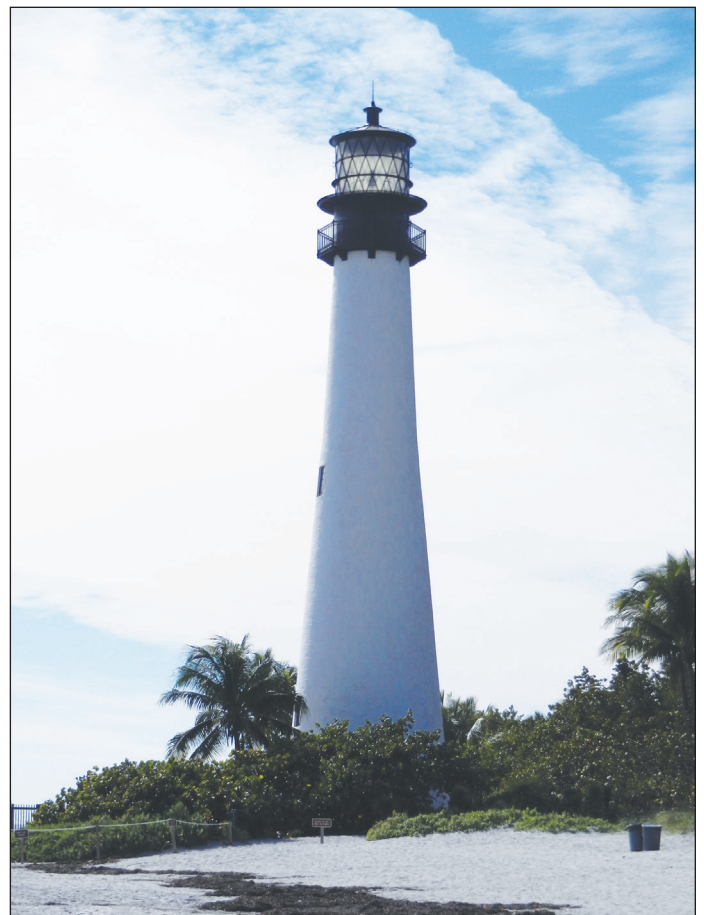
### Key Biscayne

### **Cape Florida State Park**

Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park,  
1200 S. Crandon Boulevard  
305.361.5811

[floridastateparks.org/park/Cape-Florida](http://floridastateparks.org/park/Cape-Florida)

Site of an 1836 attack in which the Seminole set fire to the lighthouse, forcing the keeper and his assistant out onto the light's balcony. Gunfire from the ground wounded the keeper and killed the assistant. The keeper was rescued by sailors from a U.S. Navy warship the following day.



Key Biscayne Lighthouse at Cape Florida State Park.





## Southeast Region

### William S. Harney and the Caloosahatchee Attack

In early 1839, after three years of fighting and with no end in sight, Major General Alexander Macomb, the army's highest-ranking officer, traveled to Florida to negotiate a treaty with the Seminole. It was one of the rare times in our history when a Native American tribe forced the United States to negotiate an end to an Indian war.



General William S. Harney, ca. 1860-1865.  
(Image courtesy of National Archives)

As part of the treaty, it was agreed that a trading post would be established near the Caloosahatchee River, at what is now downtown Cape Coral. In command was Lieutenant Colonel William S. Harney with about two dozen soldiers. Things were peaceful at first, and the Indians would frequently visit the trading post and proclaim their satisfaction with the agreement. But on the night of July 23, 1839, a group of renegade "Spanish Indians" led by Chakaika and Hospetarke attacked the store and sleeping soldiers. Half the soldiers and store clerks were killed or captured by the Indians, some never rising from their beds. The Indians made off with considerable plunder, including experimental Colt revolving rifles.

Several men escaped, including Harney, who ran into the river wearing only his night clothes. Two survivors were found barely alive two weeks later by a burial party, and Harney would search for a year and a half before finding Chakaika and taking revenge. Mikasuki leader Sam Jones denied any involvement by mainstream Seminole, but enraged whites considered the treaty a failure, and warfare resumed. Harney, known for dealing harshly with Indians, would later command U.S. forces during the Third Seminole War.

– Article by Christopher Kimball

### Miami

#### Fort Dallas

Lummus Park, 404 NW 3rd Street  
305.416.1416

[miamigov.com/parks](http://miamigov.com/parks)

Original stone barracks from Fort Dallas, the beginning of Miami. Located in a City of Miami Park, the building is presently unused. Contact the park office for admittance.



Fort Dallas Barracks.

#### HistoryMiami Museum

101 W. Flagler Street  
305.375.1492

[historymiami.org](http://historymiami.org)

The museum has a large exhibit on the Seminole and the Seminole Wars, including photos of participants, maps, and pictures of the region during the wars.

#### Miccosukee Indian Village and Museum

US41, 24 miles west of the Florida Turnpike  
305.552.8365

[miccosukee.com](http://miccosukee.com)

The official museum of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, this fine museum features exhibits on Seminole culture and the Seminole Wars. Tours into the Everglades are available nearby.

#### Military Trail Marker

Arch Creek Park, 1855 NE 135th Street, North Miami

Marks a portion of the military trail that ran between Fort Dallas (Miami) and Fort Lauderdale at a point where it crossed Arch Creek over a natural bridge. The park also has a small museum with a display about General William S. Harney.

*"They may shoot us, drive our women and children night and day; they may chain our hands and feet, but the red man's heart will be always free."*

– Coacoochee (Wild Cat)





## Southeast Region

### Zachary Taylor and the Battle of Okeechobee

One of the most fiercely-fought battles of the Second Seminole War took place on Christmas Day, 1837, along the north shore of Lake Okeechobee. Colonel Zachary Taylor was leading a force of about 850 men along the Kissimmee River when he received word that several hundred Seminole had taken up position in a heavily wooded hammock near the water's edge. The Seminole, under Sam Jones, Coacoochee, and others, had chosen a superbly defensible position, forcing the troops to cross a thick sawgrass swamp, making them perfect targets for the Indian warriors.

Keeping nearly half his force in reserve, Taylor ordered about 120 Missouri Volunteers to make the first assault. After suffering heavy casualties, the volunteers fell back and were replaced by regular troops from the Sixth Infantry. This unit also suffered severely, losing almost every officer. Taylor then ordered the Fourth Infantry to attack. Instead of marching in orderly ranks, these men rushed the hammock with bayonets fixed, finally driving the Seminole from the field of battle. As the fighting ended, Taylor sent in his reserves.

The American press hailed it as a great victory and Zachary Taylor became a national hero, was made a general, and took his first steps toward the presidency. But how great a victory was it? Taylor's men had killed few of their enemy. In contrast, approximately one-third of

the soldiers who had attacked the hammock before the reserves were sent in were dead or wounded. With half of Taylor's force out of action, the Seminole had gained time to make their escape to the safety of the Everglades.



Zachary Taylor portrait by Joseph Henry Bush, ca. 1848.

### Monroe County

#### Islamorada

#### Indian Key State Park

US1, Mile Marker 78.5

305.664.2540

[floridastateparks.org/park/Indian-Key](http://floridastateparks.org/park/Indian-Key)

Accessible by boat only.

Site of an 1840 attack that killed Dr. Henry Perrine and several others. At the time, Indian Key was the County Seat of Dade County and one of the largest settlements in the area. A large party of Indians traveled by canoe at night to attack the island and used the island's cannon to fire on a rescue party coming from the naval hospital at nearby Tea Table Key. There is a small kiosk at the boat ramp on the causeway island nearby and a stone monument for Tea Table Key at the opposite end of the same island.

### Key West

#### Key West Military Memorial

Mallory Square, 400 Wall Street

This small plaza features monuments to all military personnel who have served in Key West, with a monument for each of the wars, including the Seminole Wars.

### Okeechobee County

#### Okeechobee

#### Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park

3500 SE 38th Avenue, off US441/98

[okeechobeebattlefield.com](http://okeechobeebattlefield.com)

Site of the Battle of Okeechobee, one of the Second Seminole War's major battles (*see article, this page*). Recently acquired by the state, the park is still under development and will be open to the public in 2015. A large stone marker on the grounds commemorates the battle.





## Southeast Region

### The Battles of Loxahatchee

General Jesup's second campaign culminated in the two Battles of the Loxahatchee, January 15 and 24, 1838. In the first, Lieutenant Levin M. Powell (U.S. Navy), with a mixed contingent of sailors and soldiers, paddled up the southwest fork of the Loxahatchee River, where they disembarked and marched inland. In what became known as Powell's Battle, they stumbled upon and engaged a large force of Seminole, the same warriors who had fought Zachary Taylor three weeks earlier at Okeechobee.

The Seminole were experienced guerrilla fighters and soon the casualties mounted for Powell's sailors (many of whom were new recruits), who broke ranks and ran. When Powell was wounded and ordered a withdrawal, Lieutenant Joseph E. Johnston and his army regulars conducted a rear guard action. This allowed most of the men to get back to the boats, but not before several were slain, including the surgeon.

Learning of Powell's defeat, Jesup ordered his army of 1,600 men forward in hopes of engaging the same Seminole force. At noon on January 24 some of Jesup's troops were met by Seminole scouts, who fired on the lead file of Dragoons. The Dragoons gave chase, and along with a large group of Tennessee Volunteers, entered a cypress swamp half a mile wide. The army pushed across the swamp into a dense hammock and up to the Loxahatchee River. Using the shallow river ford to cross, the Indians quickly regrouped and waited for the troops to follow.

The volunteers followed them to the ford and took cover, but faced with heavy fire, would not attempt a crossing. Jesup, enraged that the volunteers were holding back, ordered them to follow his lead, but the volunteer commander, Major William Lauderdale, refused to comply, and Jesup found himself alone at the river's edge. Dangerously exposed, he received a wound to the face just below the left eye and was forced to fall back.

The battle ended when Colonel William S. Harney, with fifteen men, succeeded in crossing the river and took position on the Seminole flank. Under pressure, the Indians fell back and disappeared into the swamp, a tactic they often employed. Jesup reported that seven of his men were killed in the engagement and 31 wounded.

— Article by Richard Procyk



### Palm Beach County Jupiter


#### Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and Museum

500 Captain Armours Way  
561.747.8380  
[jupiterlighthouse.org](http://jupiterlighthouse.org)

Although devoted primarily to the lighthouse, the museum features a small exhibit on the Seminole Wars.

#### Loxahatchee Battlefield Park

9060 Indiantown Road  
561.741.1359  
[loxahatcheebattlefield.com](http://loxahatcheebattlefield.com)

Site of two important battles of the Second Seminole War (*see article, this page*), the site is now a county park with numerous hiking and biking trails. Events pertaining to the wars are held often. Markers  for the battles are at the park entrance.

#### Military Trail Marker

At the intersection of Military Trail and Indiantown Road (SR706), under the clock tower.

Marks the northern terminus of a 63-mile road from Fort Jupiter to Fort Dallas (Miami) cut through the wilderness in 1838 by Major William Lauderdale and the Tennessee Volunteers.

### St. Lucie County Fort Pierce

#### Fort Capron Monument

Stone monument at water's edge, N. Indian River Drive and Chamberlain Boulevard

Site of a Third Seminole War fort that replaced Fort Pierce from the Second Seminole War. Forts were often moved short distances because of disease or to obtain better water.

#### Old Fort Pierce Park

975 S. Indian River Drive

Site of the original Fort Pierce, the small park has a stone monument and the remains of a pre-contact Indian mound.

#### St. Lucie County Regional History Center

414 Seaway Drive  
772.462.1795  
[stlucieco.gov](http://stlucieco.gov)

Exhibits on local history, with an excellent exhibit on Fort Pierce, the Seminole Wars, and Seminole culture.





## Southwest Region

### Collier County

#### Everglades City

##### Museum of the Everglades

105 W. Broadway  
239.695.0008  
[evergladesmuseum.org](http://evergladesmuseum.org)

The museum has a small exhibit on the Seminole Wars and a film about the 10,000 Islands, describing their importance in the wars. On nearby Chokoloskee Island is the Smallwood Store Museum, a post-war trading post.

*"We were marching through water from six inches to three feet deep, forty-eight days. ... No more than two hundred men of the eight hundred could be mustered for duty, fevers, diarrheas, and swollen feet and ankles ... having laid up in the hospital three-fourths of the command."*

— Captain George McCall

### Naples

##### Collier County Museum

3301 E. Tamiami Trail  
239.252.8476  
[colliermuseums.com](http://colliermuseums.com)

Features a large display on the Seminole Wars, including mannequins in military and native dress. On the grounds is a replica of a small fort typical of the type found in the area, plus a native village.



Replica of fort at Collier County Museum.

### Campaigning in the Everglades

The Seminole Wars were a new type of warfare for the United States military, and operating in the swamps of South Florida proved extremely difficult. Patrols could last for weeks, and the heat, dampness, and disease all added to the soldiers' misery. Colonel St. George-Rogers lamented, "The troops are very much weakened by sickness." He believed only those acclimated to the climate were able to tolerate the duty. "One single scout

of seven days will disable men of any other character, (even if able to accomplish one) for a long time." Dr. Jacob Motte wrote, "The saw palmetto proved very effective in tearing our horses legs, and reducing our garments to tatters."

It was also extremely frustrating duty. Soldiers scouting the Everglades would often find deserted villages and fields, but no Seminole to fight or capture. As Colonel St. George-Rogers reported, "I found no indication of the presence of Indians in that country except in small hunting parties." He also complained about the unexplored terrain with few landmarks. "The maps in my possession are reported so inaccurate as to render it doubtful as to the name of the stream."

It was the type of warfare that required unorthodox tactics. In December 1840, Colonel William Harney led an expedition into the Everglades to hunt for the Spanish Indian Chakaika, who had attacked Harney's soldiers on the Caloosahatchee and raided the town of Indian Key. The soldiers traveled in dugout canoes wearing Seminole clothing, something forbidden by the rules of "polite" warfare. The ruse worked, and Harney was successful in his mission.

— Article by Christopher Kimball



"Here We Make Our Stand."  
(Artist Jackson Walker, image courtesy of the artist)





## Southwest Region



Reenactment of attack on Kennedy-Darling store at Paynes Creek Historic State Park.

### The Panic of 1849

On a warm summer's day, July 21, 1849, the army at Key West received the report of the wounding of U.S. Inspector Major William Russell and the killing of trader James Barker at the Indian River settlement near Fort Pierce. The report noted that the settlers from most settlements on the southeast Florida coast had gathered at the mouth of the Miami River for protection, abandoning their homes in the face of the new threat. Within days of receiving the message, a second report noted the attack on the Kennedy-Darling store on Paynes Creek (as it is now known) and the deaths of Captain George Payne and Dempsey Whidden. The report also noted the escape of store clerk William McCullough, his wife, and infant child.

These attacks caused panic among frontier settlers, who feared a general Indian uprising. A large military force moved into Florida to protect the population, which had almost completely abandoned the frontier. The Seminole, under the leadership of Billy Bowlegs (Holata Micco) (page 51) and Sam Jones (Abiaka) (page 42), stated the killers were outlaws and vowed to produce the culprits in exchange for a return to the peace that had earlier prevailed. Five young men were identified as the perpetrators and hunted down by the Seminole. As proof of the Seminole desire for peace, three of the men were turned over to the army, and the severed hand of another was produced as proof of his death. One had escaped. An uneasy peace returned, but mistrust between whites and Seminole continued, leading to the Third Seminole War in 1855.

— Article by Dr. Joe Knetsch

### Collier-Seminole State Park

20200 E. Tamiami Trail

239.394.3397

[floridastateparks.org/park/Collier-Seminole](http://floridastateparks.org/park/Collier-Seminole)

Located in the area of some of the final battles of the Third Seminole War, there is a replica blockhouse being restored as a small museum.

### DeSoto County

#### Fort Ogden Marker

9693 SW US17, in front of Fort Ogden Post Office

Marks the site of a camp established during the 1841 campaign against the Seminole in the Big Cypress area.

### Glades County

#### Lakeport

#### Fort Center

Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area,  
Banana Grove Road

Site of a major post in the Second and Third Seminole Wars. Also a prehistoric archaeological site. Hiking/biking trail, informational kiosks, but no fort remains. The fort was named in honor of Lieutenant John Center, killed at the Battle of Okeechobee.

#### Seminole Tribe Veteran's Center

Brighton Reservation, 800 E. Harney Pond Road  
863.357.7620

[semtribe.com](http://semtribe.com)

A unique star-shaped building, the center contains an exhibit on the Seminole Wars and Seminole who have served in more recent wars.

### Hardee County

#### Bowling Green

#### Paynes Creek Historic State Park

888 Lake Branch Road

863.375.4717

[floridastateparks.org/park/Paynes-Creek](http://floridastateparks.org/park/Paynes-Creek)

Site of Fort Chokonikla and the attack on the trading post that led to the "Panic of 1849" (see article, *this page*). The park has an excellent museum devoted to the Seminole Wars, and a trail that leads to a monument dedicated to those slain in the attack.





## Southwest Region

### Zolfo Springs

#### Pioneer Park & Cracker Trail Museum

US17 & SR64

863.735.0119

[hardeecounty.net](http://hardeecounty.net)

Site of a decisive Third Seminole War battle fought on June 16, 1856, in the aftermath of the Tillis Battle (*see article, page 50*). The Cracker Trail Museum has an exhibit on the Seminole Wars and there is a marker at the front of the nearby steam locomotive.

### Hendry County

#### Big Cypress Reservation

#### Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum

Big Cypress Reservation, 34725 W. Boundary Road, Clewiston

877.902.1113

[ahtahthiki.com](http://ahtahthiki.com)

[semtribe.com](http://semtribe.com)

The official museum of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, this excellent facility features artifacts and exhibits on Seminole culture and the Seminole Wars. The complex also features a 1.25 mile interpretive boardwalk and conservation building.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum.

(Image courtesy of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum)

### LaBelle

#### Fort Denaud Marker

On south side of Fort Denaud Bridge, SR78, 5.7 miles west of SR29

Site of a major post in both the Second and Third Seminole Wars, the site was chosen because it was the farthest steamboats could travel up the Caloosahatchee River. Patrols often left Fort Denaud for expeditions into the Big Cypress area.

#### Fort Thompson Marker

SR80, 1.7 miles east of SR29

A fort built during the Second Seminole War and named in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Thompson, killed at the Battle of Okeechobee. The fort, though built on high ground, often had to be abandoned due to high water.

### Highlands County

#### Sebring

#### Fort Basinger Marker

US98 at Kissimmee River (24 miles east of US27)

Marks the nearby location of a fort built by Colonel Zachary Taylor's force just prior to the Battle of Okeechobee. Casualties from the battle were brought to the fort for immediate medical attention before being transported back to Tampa.

### Lee County

#### Cape Coral

#### Harney's Point Marker

Cape Coral Parkway at Caloosahatchee River

Site of the trading post established by General Macomb's treaty of 1839 and attacked by the Indians on July 23 of that year (*see article, page 44*). Approximately two dozen of the soldiers and merchants were killed in the attack.

#### Fort Myers

#### Chief Billy Bowlegs Marker

SR80 (2800 Palm Beach Boulevard) at Billy's Creek

Bowlegs (*see article, page 51*) was leader of the Seminole during the Third Seminole War and had his camp further up Billy's Creek. His surrender in 1858 brought an end to the Seminole Wars.



1837 Ames Peace Powder Flask, brass and copper.

(Image courtesy of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum)





## Southwest Region

### Fort Myers Marker

In front of the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center,  
2301 First Street

Marks the location of the original Fort Myers. Called Fort Harvie in the Second Seminole War, it was reactivated in 1850 as Fort Myers and served as headquarters during the Third Seminole War.

### Fort Myers Cemetery

3200 Michigan Avenue  
239.321.7037

The remains of soldiers who died at Fort Myers were later reinterred at the city cemetery. A single headstone for the common grave is at the rear of the cemetery on Roan Avenue near Headley Lane.

### Military Cemetery Marker

1651 Fowler Street

Site of the original fort cemetery, the graves were discovered during construction in the 20th century and the remains reinterred in the city cemetery.

### Southwest Florida Museum of History

2031 Jackson Street  
239.321.7430

[swflmuseumofhistory.com](http://swflmuseumofhistory.com)


Exhibits on Fort Myers and the Seminole Wars, with emphasis on the Third Seminole War.

## Manatee County

### Bradenton

### Braden Castle Ruins

Braden Castle Mobile Home Park, 27th Street E., off SR64,  
3.7 miles west of I-75

Ruins of Dr. Joseph Braden's plantation house, unsuccessfully attacked by Indians during the Third Seminole War. The accompanying sugar plantation used a steam-powered mill and employed a large number of slaves. A marker on site  tells the story of the house. The ruins are located within a densely packed mobile home community and parking is limited.



Braden Castle Ruins.

### The Willoughby Tillis Battle

Willoughby Tillis was a soldier and officer in the Florida Volunteer Militia who saw action in north Florida during the Second Seminole War. After the war he moved his family to a farm near Fort Meade, and soon found himself embroiled in one of the major battles of the Third



Willoughby Tillis Battle Monument.

Seminole War. On the morning of June 14, 1856, Seminole warriors attacked his homestead while his wife was outside tending the cows. Taking refuge in the house, Tillis, his family, and a Mr. Underhill returned fire, and the only injury sustained was to their black servant. In the

meantime, the Indians killed the livestock and attempted unsuccessfully to burn the house and barn.

Seven mounted volunteers from nearby Fort Meade, commanded by Lieutenant Alderman Carlton, responded and engaged the Indians. Three combatants were killed on each side, including Lieutenant Carlton, and several others wounded. Other volunteers joined the pursuit, and two days later they found the band camped on the banks of Peas Creek (Peace River) near today's Zolfo Springs. Nineteen volunteers under Lieutenant Streaty Parker surprised and attacked the Indians, killing several and wounding many in fierce hand-to-hand fighting. The volunteers lost two of their own men, and among the Indian dead was war leader Ossen Tustennuggee. With his death and the loss of so many warriors, Seminole offensives north of Lake Okeechobee ceased. The five soldiers killed in the two battles were buried together, and a monument erected in their honor at Fort Meade.

— Article by Christopher Kimball





## Southwest Region

### Manatee Historic Village

1404 Manatee Avenue E., 4.7 miles west of I-75  
941.749.7165

[manateeclerk.com](http://manateeclerk.com)

Reconstructed pioneer settlement, founded by Colonel Worth at the end of the Second Seminole War and attacked during the Third Seminole War. The park contains a reconstructed house from the period, and the adjacent cemetery has the grave of a settler who fought in the war.

### South Florida Museum

201 10th Street W.  
941.746.4131

[southfloridamuseum.org](http://southfloridamuseum.org)

The museum has a large exhibit on the Seminole Wars and Seminole culture. The complex also includes the Bishop Planetarium and Parker Manatee Aquarium.

### Ellenton

### Gamble Mansion Historic State Park

3708 Patten Avenue (US301)

941.723.4536

[floridastateparks.org/park/Gamble-Plantation](http://floridastateparks.org/park/Gamble-Plantation)

A restored example of a Third Seminole War era plantation home that is open for visitors. Sugar mill ruins are located behind the park on SR638 with an accompanying marker  telling the history of the plantation.



Gamble Mansion Historic State Park.

### Billy Bowlegs

The Alachua Seminole leader Billy Bowlegs' name was a corruption of a hereditary name, "Bolek," and he was often referred to by his proper name, Holata Micco. Although he was a leader in the Second Seminole War, Bowlegs did not come to prominence until the final year of the war. By that time, nearly all the leaders from the ruling clan had either died or been transported west. When it came time for Colonel Worth to negotiate an end to the war, Bowlegs, although a sub-chief to Sam Jones, was the man Worth spoke to.



Billy Bowlegs, a Seminole Chief.  
(Image courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery)

Pressure to emigrate began to mount on the Seminole soon after the war ended, but Bowlegs refused to consider relocation. Large payments were offered, but all were turned down. When murders were committed in 1849 (see article, page 48), Bowlegs maintained the peace by surrendering the perpetrators to white authority. In 1852 he was taken on a trip to Washington and New York to meet with President Fillmore and other officials, but he held firm in his resistance to emigration.

When war broke out in 1855, Bowlegs waged a defensive campaign, only engaging the army when forced to or on advantageous terms. For the most part, he refused to negotiate or meet with emissaries from the western Seminole. It was only when the army had destroyed most of his people's villages and crops that he agreed to give up the fight. When he and 122 followers boarded ship for the west, the Seminole Wars came to an end.



Young Wife of Billy Bowlegs.  
(Image courtesy of the Collection of the Museum of Florida History)





## Post-War Seminole



The sons of Ida and Charlie Willie approach the Stranahan Trading Post on New River at Fort Lauderdale, ca. 1904.

**S**eminole leader Sam Jones died in the 1860s, but his rigid dictums against interaction with the white authorities lived on, enforced well into the mid-20th century by the Council of Elders. Four-fifths of the post-war “Seminole” were Jones’ Mikasuki-speaking people, who continued to shun anything connected to the government. Men hunted in the Everglades and Big Cypress and sold hides, feathers, and furs to purchase manufactured goods from riverside trading posts: nails, flour, guns & ammunition, salt, tools, mirrors, cotton cloth, and soon sewing machines.

The Florida East Coast Railroad arrived in Miami in 1896, and land speculation became rampant. Drainage of the eastern Everglades began in 1906, resulting in Indian camps and farms being sold as real estate. In 1928 the Tamiami Trail crossed the Everglades, opening up the Indians’ isolated homeland, soon followed by game wardens enforcing laws that for the Indians created a major post-war threat.

Around 1917, however, the resilient Mikasuki-speakers found that they could engage in tourist employment in Miami’s riverside “Seminole Indian Villages” by just living seasonally in their chickee camps inside the attractions. By the mid 1930s over one-half of the population were in exhibition villages along the eastern Seaboard or were making crafts for the tourist trade. Alligator wrestling offered employment for young men. The women’s new art form of machine-sewn patchwork decorated their clothing and contributed to their tribal branding, while “Seminole” dolls and men’s woodworking skills contributed to a viable tribal craft economy. Entrepreneurial Mikasuki moved from the isolated Everglades to the Tamiami Trail roadway to open small tourist attractions of their own.

Land on which to house “The Florida Seminoles” became a governmental issue, and major reservations were established before the 1940s. Reservations were set up in the Big Cypress and in Hollywood. Most Muskogee-speakers moved to the Brighton Reservation near Lake Okeechobee, and cattle ranching was instituted by the government both there and at Big Cypress. After World War II the Bureau of Indian Affairs decided to terminate support for certain Indian tribes to save money. The Florida Seminoles were slated for termination, though only a handful were literate. They and white friends in the community asked the government for time to develop a tribal self government. The Seminole Tribe of Florida became federally recognized in 1957, followed by the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida in 1962.

It was the concept of Indian “sovereignty,” a tribal right upheld by the federal government, that created new economic possibilities for the poverty-stricken Florida tribes. The reservation land was “tax-free!” In the 1970s “Tax Free Seminole Smoke Shops” made the State of Florida an adversary. Then the concept of “24/7 Reservation Bingo” was guided through State and Federal court battles by modern-day strategist James E. Billie, who as Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida tested the perimeters of tribal “sovereign rights.” His wins in court helped all tribes across the country. Forging the way to high stakes gaming, the Seminole Tribe of Florida’s purchase of Hard Rock International in 2006 placed them in an economic advantage never before experienced by an American Indian tribe.

– Article and Images Courtesy Patsy West  
Seminole/Miccosukee Photo Archive



Bobby Henry (left) and Alan Jumper, dressed for a Traditional Clothing Contest, Smallwood’s Trading Post Historic Site, Chokoloskee.





## Contributors

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**Christopher Kimball** has been doing historical programs and living history presentations since 1986 and is a lifetime member of the National Association of Interpretation. His book, *Seminole and Creek War Chronology*, documents events and battles of the three Seminole Wars.

**Dr. Joe Knetsch** has published two volumes on the Seminole Wars and over forty articles on the wars in various journals. He is also on the advisory board for the Seminole Wars Foundation and was a full-time board member from 2006 until 2012.

**Frank Laumer** has devoted his life to the study of the Seminole Wars and to the Dade Battle in particular. He is the author of three books on the Dade Battle, including *Dade's Last Command*, *Massacre!*, and *Nobody's Hero*.

**John and Mary Lou Missall** are authors and editors of several books on the Seminole Wars, including *The Seminole Wars: America's Longest Indian Conflict*,

*Hollow Victory: A Novel of the Second Seminole War*, *This Miserable Pride of a Soldier*, and *This Torn Land*.

**Jerry Morris** is a long-time student of the Seminole Wars and co-author of *The Fort King Road: Then and Now*, a detailed survey of an important thoroughfare of the Seminole Wars era.

**Harry Pickering** is a retired Police Lieutenant from Coral Gables, Florida, with a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice. This third generation Florida native enjoys pursuing historical studies and research.

**Richard Procyk** has worked in the field of archaeology for more than 20 years and has done extensive research into the Battles of the Loxahatchee and other aspects of the Seminole Wars. He is author of *Guns Across the Loxahatchee: An Archaeohistorical Investigation of Seminole War Sites in Florida*.

**Jackson Walker** is an artist who specializes in paintings depicting important moments in Florida history. His book *Recovering Moments in Time* is available from the Florida Historical Society Press.

**Patsy West** is Director of the Seminole/Miccosukee Photo Archive in Fort Lauderdale and a noted ethnohistorian and museum curator. She is the author of *The Enduring Seminoles* and of many articles that have appeared in publications such as *Native Peoples Magazine* and the *Journal of the Southern Anthropological Society*.

**Pedro Osceola Zepeda** is a Seminole artist and craftsman, and Acquisitions Consultant and former Outreach Coordinator for the Seminole Tribe's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

*"Florida is certainly the poorest country that ever two people quarreled for ... a perfect paradise for Indians, alligators, serpents, frogs, and every other kind of loathsome reptile. ... Why not in the name of common sense let the Indians have kept it?"*

*– Captain George McCall*

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Original cover design by Jackson Walker.

**Front Cover:** Osceola by George Catlin; Attack of the Seminoles on the Blockhouse-Florida, ca. 1837, (Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, [floridamemory.com/items/show/28612](http://floridamemory.com/items/show/28612)); Pistol, U.S. Model 1836, dated 1841, (Image courtesy of the Collection of the Museum of Florida History); Billy Bowlegs, a Seminole Chief, (Image courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery); Eyes to the Okeechobee, (Artist Jackson Walker, Image courtesy of the artist); Dade Battle reenactment, (Image courtesy John and Mary Lou Missall); Fort Foster, (Image courtesy of Florida State Parks).

**Back Cover:** Reenactor John Griffin, descendant of black Seminoles, (Image courtesy of Jackson Walker); Bandler bag, (Image courtesy of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum); 1831 Map of Florida, (Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida, [floridamemory.com/items/show/143879](http://floridamemory.com/items/show/143879)); New Smyrna ruins, (Image courtesy of John and Mary Lou Missall); Bill Gruber, manager of the Dade Battlefield Historic State Park, (Image courtesy of Willis Tate).





## Further Reading

Interested in learning more about the Seminole Wars? The following titles will get you started, whether you want a general overview or would like to explore certain aspects in greater detail.

**Bemrose, John.** *Reminiscences of the Second Seminole War.* Seminole Wars Foundation and University of Tampa Press, 2001.

**Buker, George E.** *Swamp Sailors in the Second Seminole War.* Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1997.

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**Walker, Jackson.** *Recovering Moments In Time: The Florida History Paintings of Jackson Walker.* Cocoa: Florida Historical Society Press, 2013.

**Weisman, Brent R.** *Unconquered People: Florida's Seminole and Miccosukee Indians.* Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1999.

**West, Patsy.** *The Enduring Seminoles: From Alligator Wrestling to Ecotourism.* Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1998.

**Wickman, Patricia Riles.** *Osceola's Legacy.* Revised Edition. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 2006.

All titles are available from the Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc. To order, visit [seminolewars.org](http://seminolewars.org)



Moses Jumper, Jr., leads the Indian attack at the Big Cypress Shootout Reenactment.





## Battle Reenactments

Experience the drama of the Seminole Wars by attending one of the many battle reenactments held at several locations throughout Florida. Most events are held at parks that feature hiking trails, museums, or river access, and many have period vendors and demonstrators. Each event is unique and exhibits a different aspect of Seminole War history.

Below is a list of events held at state parks and approximate dates. Contact the park for exact dates and details at [floridastateparks.org](http://floridastateparks.org). Events are also held at local parks and include Billy Swamp Safari at the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation, Loxahatchee Battlefield Park, Fort Christmas Historical Park, and others. Check with local parks and museums for Seminole War related events in your area.

**Alligator Warrior Festival**, O'Leno State Park, High Springs, late October; 386.454.1853.

**Fort Foster Candlelight Christmas**, Hillsborough River State Park, Thonotosassa, early December; 813.987.6771.

**Dade Battle Reenactment**, Dade Battlefield Historic State Park, Bushnell, early January; 352.793.4781.

**Fort Chokonikla Encampment**, Paynes Creek Historic State Park, Bowling Green, late January; 863.375.4717.



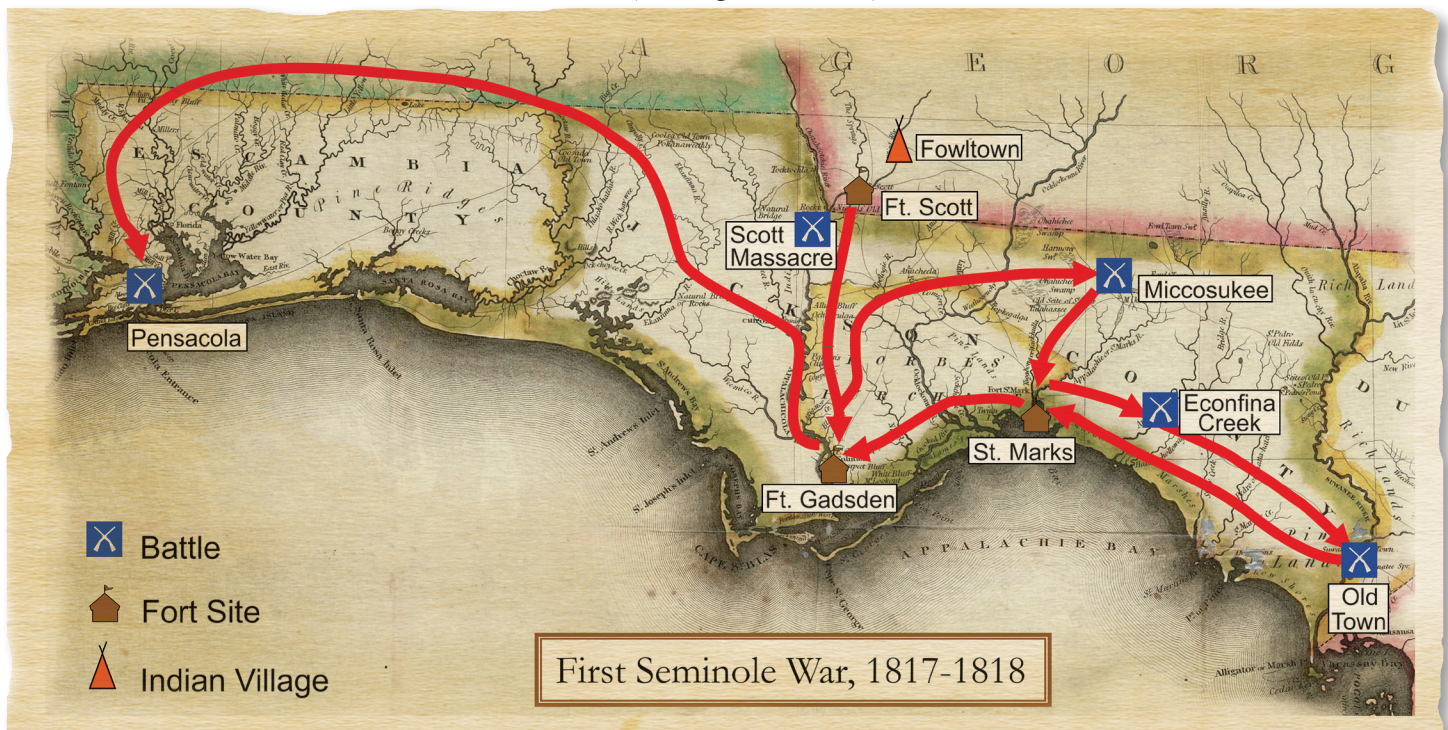
Visitors attending a camp-life demonstration, Dade Battle Reenactment.

**Fort Foster Rendezvous**, Hillsborough River State Park, Thonotosassa, mid-February; 813.987.6771.

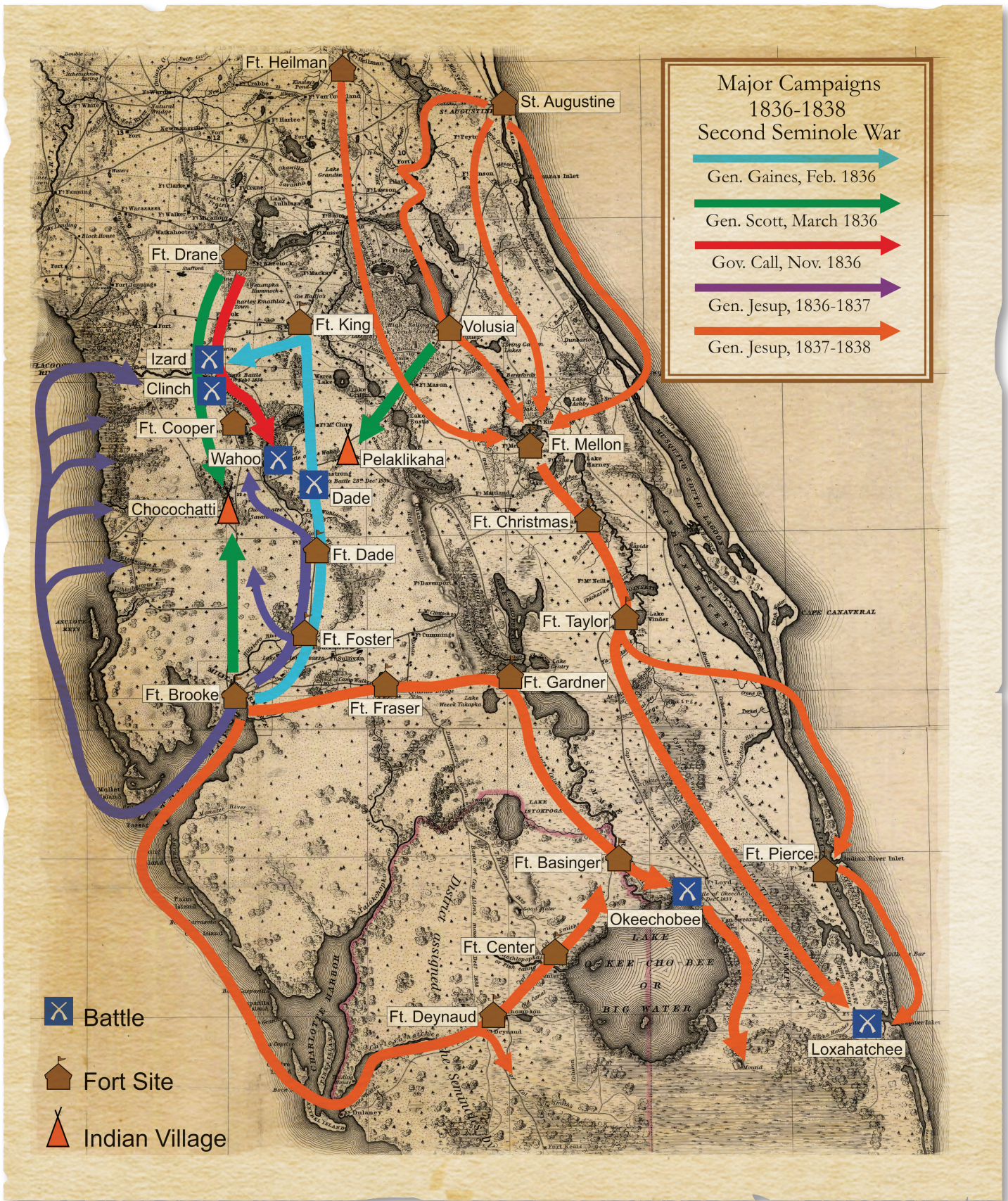
**Battle of Okeechobee Reenactment**, Okeechobee Battlefield Historic State Park, Okeechobee, late February; 863.462.5360.

**Fort Cooper Days**, Fort Cooper State Park, Inverness, mid-March; 352.726.0315.

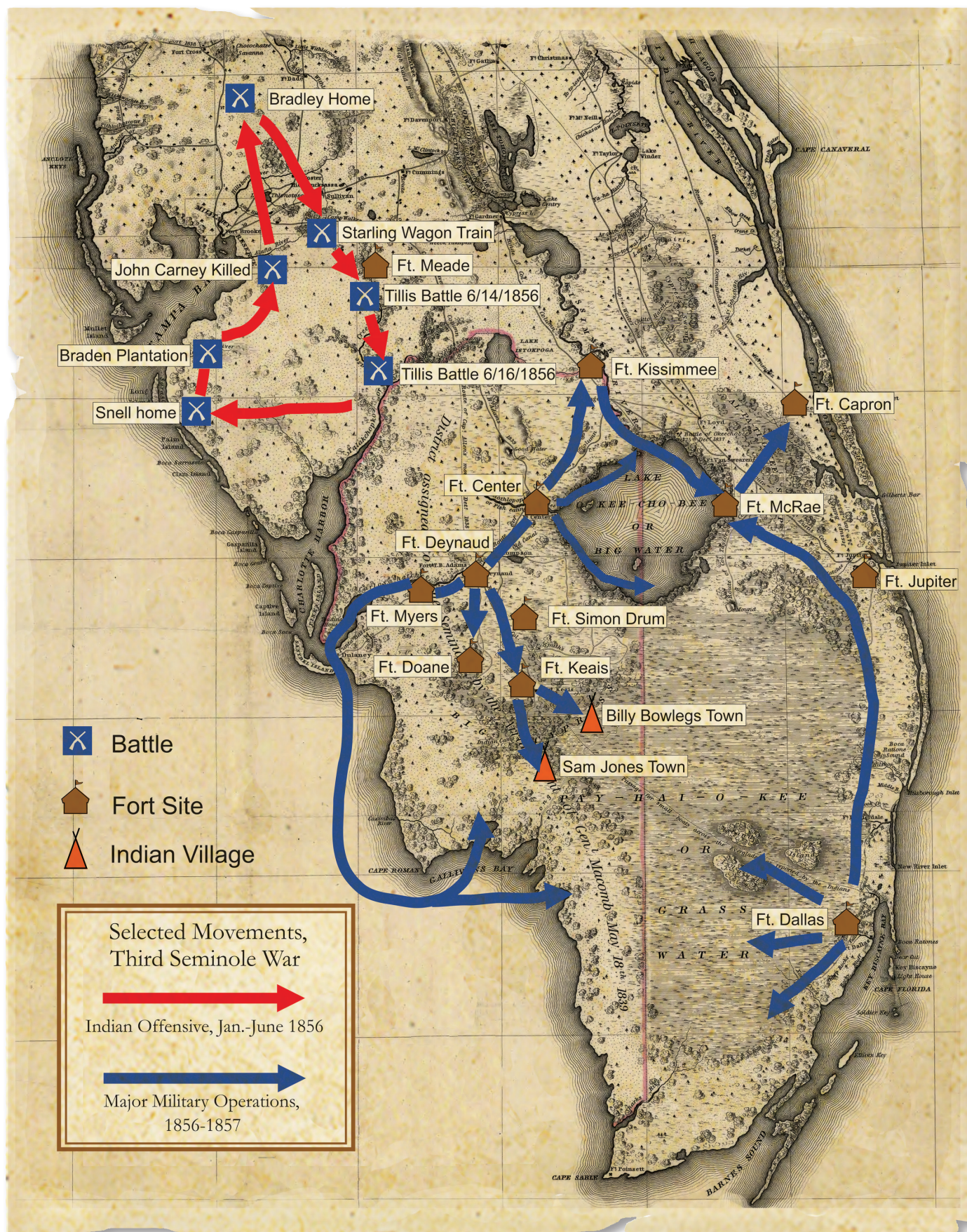
## Campaign Maps













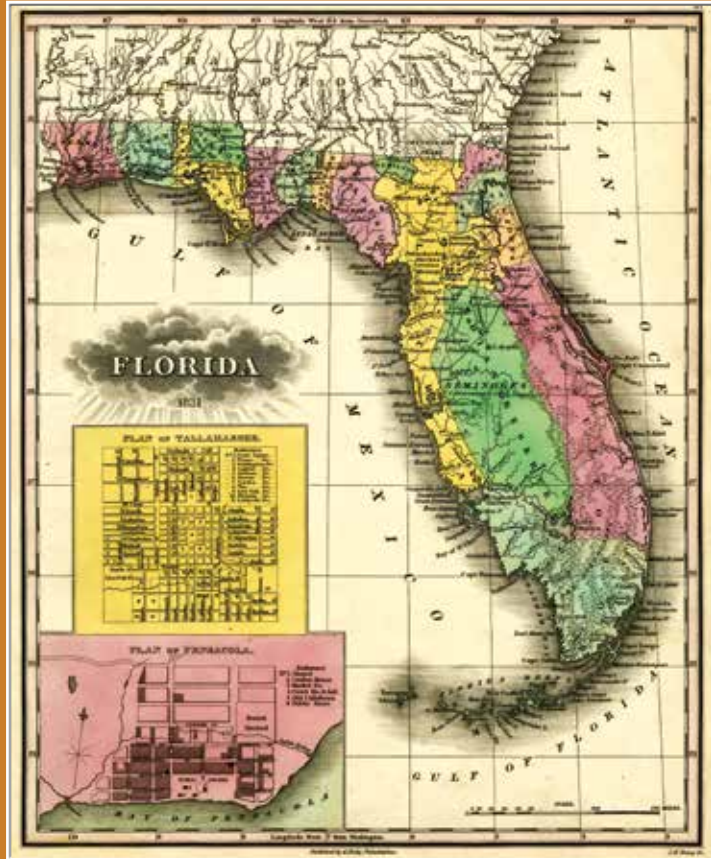
# Florida Seminole Wars Heritage Trail



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